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POLL RESULTS

Of the options provided by Interior, which status do you support for long-term alien workers in the CNMI?

U.S. citizenship by an act of Congress; **152**

Permanent resident status leading to U.S. citizenship, with five-year minimum residence spent anywhere in the U.S. or its territories; **22**

Permanent resident status leading to U.S. citizenship, with the five-year residence spent in the CNMI; **18**

Nonimmigrant status like that negotiated for Freely Associated States, and they may live and work in the U.S. and its territories; **15**

Nonimmigrant status like that for FAS citizens, but they may live and work in the CNMI only; **45**

None **68**

Sunday, May 09, 2010

INSIDE



My Mom

The Saipan Tribune features Mother's Day essays submitted by MHS students.

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Election Day

The Philippines' first automated elections today will be a test of its fragile democracy.

ASIA...Page 18

NMC names outstanding student, employees of the year. **PAGE 6**
Exit poll: Filipino voters in the NMI pick Noynoy, Mar. **PAGE 8**



NMI, Guam govs may meet with Japanese PM

» 6 Japanese lawmakers hear concerns on Futenma relocation to Marianas



CNMI Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, third from left, CNMI Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, left, and Guam Gov. Felix P. Camacho, third from right, join other CNMI officials and the six visiting lawmakers of the ruling Democratic Party of Japan right after a meeting Saturday morning in the governor's conference room on Capital Hill. Inset shows Fitial and Camacho exchanging business cards with members of the Japanese Diet.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Six visiting lawmakers of the ruling Democratic Party of Japan said on Saturday they are now trying to broker a historic meeting between Japan Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama and CNMI Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Guam Gov. Felix P. Camacho on issues surrounding the possible relocation of up to 4,000 American troops from the U.S. Marine Corps Air Station at Futenma in Okinawa to the Marianas.

See JAPANESE on Page 4

Resolution 'strongly urges' Congress to reject Interior recommendations

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

RELATED NEWS

Alien workers, IRs to seek community's support. **PAGE 7**

The CNMI House of Representatives and Senate will hold a back-to-back session tomorrow, hoping to adopt a key joint resolution "strongly urging" the U.S. Congress to "reject"

the U.S. Department of Interior recommendation to grant long-term immigration status to some 20,000 non-residents in the CNMI.

Interior gave five options for such long-term immigration status, including conferring

See RESOLUTION on Page 4

GAO: CNMI, DHS must work together on federalization

The Government Accountability Office said the CNMI and the Department of Homeland Security must work together so that DHS can implement federal border

control and immigration in the CNMI.

GAO, the investigative arm of the U.S. Congress, issued Friday an 88-page report stating that

DHS component agencies "face operational challenges and have been unable to negotiate solutions with the CNMI government."

See full story on Page 2

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Local

GAO: CNMI, DHS must work together on federalization

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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The Government Accountability Office said the CNMI and the Department of Homeland Security must work together so that DHS can implement federal border control and immigration in the CNMI.

GAO, the investigative arm of the U.S. Congress, issued on Friday an 88-page report stating that DHS component agencies "face operational challenges and have been unable to negotiate solutions with the CNMI government."

These DHS component agencies are the U.S. Customs and Border Protection, the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

"To enable DHS to implement federal border control and immigration in the CNMI, GAO recommends that the secretary of Homeland Security work with the heads of CBP, ICE and USCIS to conclude negotiations with the CNMI government regarding access to CNMI airport space, access to detention facilities, and information about the status of

aliens," GAO said.

GAO issued the report titled "DHS should conclude negotiations and finalize regulations to implement federal immigration law" to comply with the implementation requirements of Public Law 110-229 or the Consolidated Natural Resources Act.

Signed in May 2008, P.L. 110-229 puts CNMI immigration under federal control effective Nov. 28, 2009.

The GAO report described the steps taken by DHS' three component agencies to secure CNMI borders in accordance with the CNRA.

3 specific concerns

First, CBP has not reached a long-term occupancy agreement with the CNMI on airport space and that airport space available for CBP does not meet facility standards.

As of April 2010, CBP continued to seek access to approximately 7,200 additional square feet of space at the Saipan airport.

The CNMI said CBP had not officially communicated a request regarding its space needs.

Second, ICE has not come to an agreement with the CNMI for access to detention space.

As a result, ICE has transferred three of 30 aliens to prisons in Guam and Honolulu. Those three are convicted criminals under CNMI or U.S. law.

Under a 2007 intergovernmental service agreement between the U.S. Marshals Service and the CNMI Department of Corrections, the CNMI adult correctional facility on Saipan provides the U.S. government 25 detention beds at a rate of \$77 per bed per day. As of September 2008, less than 30 percent or 134 or 513 of the facility's beds were filled.

ICE, which wants to obtain needed detention space, had not finalized an agreement with the CNMI government on the use of the prison as of March 2010

owing to unresolved cost documentation.

CNMI Corrections Secretary Ray Mafnas, in an earlier interview with the *Saipan Tribune*, said their offered rates to ICE are as follows: \$84 per detainee per day with a dedicated housing unit with utilities only; \$105 per detainee per day with a dedicated housing unit with utilities and services included, except for medical care and services outside the facility.

The GAO report said the CNMI provided a rate of \$107, but was later recalculated to \$89 per day. In January 2009, ICE officials said CNMI officials acknowledged calculation errors but did not agree to a bed rate

See GAO on Next Page

Man allegedly beats up wife, resists arrest

A Dandan resident allegedly beat up his wife and resisted efforts by police to arrest him early Thursday morning at the couple's residence.

Sumit Dhakal was arrested for assault and battery, disturbing the peace, and resisting arrest.

The victim sustained bruises in the shape of a hand on her back.

During Friday's hearing, Superior Court associate judge Ramona V. Manglona imposed a \$5,000 cash bail for Dhakal's temporary release. Preliminary hearing was set for May 13 at 9am.

Detective Peter A. Aldan stated in his report that the inci-

dent arose after the wife asked Dhakal Wednesday to help her young son with his homework.

Dhakal allegedly got mad, told her he's not a slave, then left the house. When he came back later that night, he was drunk.

While watching TV in the living room, Dhakal became angry and started throwing things.

Later at 2am, Dhakal walked into the bedroom and repeatedly punched his wife, prompting her son to stop him.

The victim ran to a neighbor where she called the police.

Dhakal was allegedly combative and pulled his hands away when police officers tried to arrest him. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

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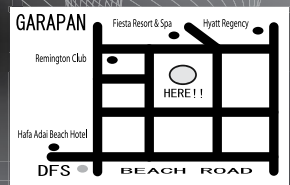


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NMC fights for Board of Regents' autonomy

» **'Hiring, firing power must rest with the college'**

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College wants to keep the power and authority of its board which, based on the law, must be independent and maintain its constitutionally created autonomy.

In light of this, the college says it is opposed to amending the law to give lawmakers a hand in decisions relating to NMC's personnel.

House Bill 17-39, authored by Rep. Stanley Torres, proposed to subject all college employees, including its president, to termination-with-cause only, guided by an adopted grievance proceeding.

In a letter to the House Committee on Education, interim college president Lorraine Cabrera said the college firmly believe that the Constitution provides that the regents alone can adopt

policies regarding the hiring and firing of its personnel, including the president.

She said Torres' legislation contravenes this provision of the law.

Cabrera said the Higher Education Act of 1997 was amended in recognition of the importance of retaining the college's accreditation with the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

"The Legislature recognized that accreditation from the WASC was 'dependent' upon the [board] maintaining its constitutionally-created autonomy," Cabrera said, adding that the purpose of the 1997 amendment to the law was to clarify ambiguities in the law and confirm that the board shall have sole power and authority to set the salaries for the chief executive officer, faculty, and staff.

She said this was why NMC was also exempted from the 1984 Compensation Adjustment Act.

In response, Torres said that

Cabrera incorrectly cited a part of the Constitution which states that the "composition of the Board of Regents and other matters pertaining to its operations and duties shall be provided by law."

Torres said the Legislature has the power to change the duties and operations of the Board of Regents when necessary.

"Therefore, we in the 7th Legislature have the right to propose legislation to improve the operations and duties of the NMC Board of Regents, as duties then passed on down to the NMC president," Torres said.

The Board of Regents' personnel affairs committee is currently working on revising its personnel policies, including the rules on firing and hiring of

personnel. Among the proposals being finalized for board action is the provision on termination-with-cause.

Under the college's existing two-year employment contract, NMC has the authority to not renew a contract, with or with-

out cause.

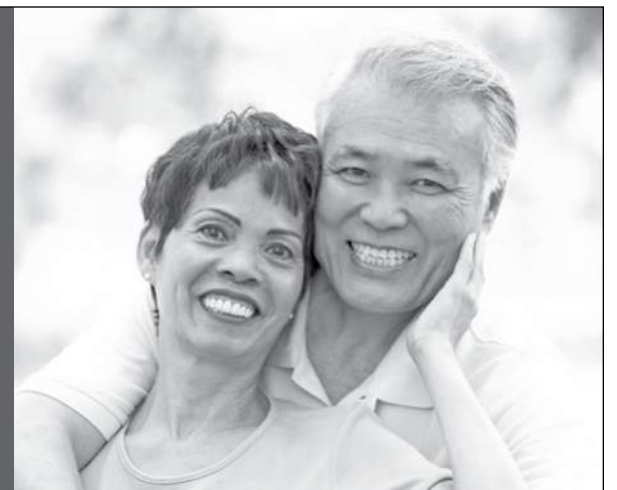
A number of long-time faculty staff at the college were let go last year, mostly without cause.

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GAO

From Page 2

lower than \$105.

Third, DHS efforts to gain direct access to the CNMI's immigration databases have been unsuccessful, hampering U.S. enforcement operations.

GAO said DHS component officials have expressed concerns about the reliance on the CNMI point of contact and stressed that it is imperative for the department to have direct access to the CNMI data systems to perform DHS' mission with maximum efficiency.

ICE cited seven specific concerns, including a lack of information needed to support decisions regarding aliens' status or eligibility to remain in the CNMI.

"For example, ICE must rely on the CNMI point of contact for information to determine the status of a given individual with an umbrella permit," GAO said.

Conclusions

GAO said despite the DHS components' progress in establishing federal border control in the CNMI, their inability to conclude negotiations with the CNMI government regarding access to airport space, detention facilities, and CNMI databases has resulted in continuing operational challenges.

It said although the DHS components have made continued efforts to overcome these operational challenges without department-level intervention, in each case, their efforts have encountered obstacles.

GAO said negotiations with the CNMI government for long-term access to the CNMI airports have not been concluded, and key differences remain

unresolved. Meanwhile, negotiations for access to CNMI detention facilities and databases have reached impasse.

"Without department-level leadership, as well as strategic approaches and time frames for concluding its components' negotiations with the CNMI, DHS's prospects for resolving these issues is uncertain," GAO said.

CNMI concerns

But the Fitial administration, in commenting on the draft GAO report, said GAO itself failed to comply with the CNRA, including a requirement to assess the likely economic impact of federalization after regulations are in place.

"GAO has harmed the Commonwealth by its refusal to comply with the law. Having undertaken only to 'describe' actions taken by the relevant federal agencies, GAO completely avoided any criticism of these agencies," said CNMI At-

See GAO on Next Page

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New grant for Guam's farmers, rural small biz

Local farmers and rural small businesses on Guam have an opportunity to apply for Rural Energy for America Program funding that would enable them to implement renewable energy sources at their businesses and make energy efficiency improvements.

The Guam State Clearinghouse announced the new grant Friday, which is being offered by the U.S. Department

of Agriculture through reauthorization of the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008.

Grant applicants must be either a rural small business or a farmer/rancher. Eligible projects included under this grant include wind turbines, solar, geothermal, biomass, anaerobic digesters, hydroelectric, and ocean or hydrogen systems. Funding

GAO

From Page 3

torney General Edward Buckingham and Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's special legal counsel Howard P. Willens in a 16-page comment on the draft GAO report.

In response to the CNMI government's concerns about the report's scope and support for several findings, GAO modified its report "as appropriate."

GAO also agreed to issue a subsequent report regarding any impact on the CNMI economy resulting from the implementation of the CNRA.

From Nov. 28, 2009 to March 1, 2010, CBP processed 103,565 arriving travelers at CNMI airports, and ICE processed 72 aliens for removal proceedings.

In calendar year 2009, USCIS processed 515 CNMI applications for permanent U.S. residency and 50 CNMI applications for U.S. naturalization or citizenship.

The GAO report said DHS has begun to implement work permit and visa programs for foreign workers, visitors and investors, but key regulations are not final and certain transition programs therefore remain unavailable.

RESOLUTION

From Page 1

U.S. citizenship and permanent residency leading to U.S. citizenship to aliens who have been legally residing in the CNMI for at least five years.

But House Joint Resolution 17-4 wants the U.S. Congress to "reject" the recommendations until such time the U.S. government and the CNMI government "meet together pursuant to Section 902 of the Covenant to formalize the DOI Secretary's report."

Section 902 of the CNMI's Covenant with the U.S. allows for periodic consultations between the Commonwealth and federal governments "on all matters affecting the relationship between them."

The joint resolution's authors—Rep. Rafael S. Demapan (Cov-Saipan) and Rep. Fredrick P. DeLeon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan)—are members of Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's working group on the Interior report and recommendation.

The House's Tuesday session will be at 2pm, while the Senate will be at 2:30pm.

Fitial, in an interview, said the joint resolution, once adopted, will reflect the CNMI's unified position on the Interior report and recommendation on the status of long-term alien workers in the CNMI.

"Whatever is the recommendation of the working group, that would be my message to the U.S. Congress," Fitial told *Saipan Tribune*.

The resolution, once adopted, would express the 17th Legislature's "grave concern and objection" to the Interior

A lawsuit filed by the CNMI government challenging some provisions of the CNRA resulted in a court injunction delaying implementation of the CNMI-only transitional worker program until DHS considers public comments and issues a new rule.

As a result this program is unavailable to employers as of May 1, 2010.

DHS has established the Guam-CNMI visa waiver program but did not include China and Russia, two countries that provide significant economic benefit to the CNMI.

Currently, DHS allows nationals from these two countries into the CNMI temporarily without a visa under the DHS secretary's parole authority.

DHS is reconsidering whether to include these countries in the Guam-CNMI visa waiver program. Although DHS has proposed rules that apply temporary U.S. nonimmigrant treaty investor status to investors with CNMI foreign investor entry permits, the program is not yet available.

GAO said in preparing the report, they reviewed the CNRA, as well as regulations, standard operating procedures, budget documents and other documents obtained from federal agencies. It said it also visited the CNMI and Guam where they met with local officials.

report on the alien worker population in the CNMI.

HJR 17-4 said the Interior report includes recommendations "that do not serve the best interest of the Commonwealth, that was submitted to the U.S. Congress without review or consultation with the governor of the Legislature of the Commonwealth as mandated in P.L. 110-229."

The Fitial administration earlier said it will come up with its own report on the status of alien workers in the CNMI, to be submitted to the U.S. Congress.

Rabby Syed, president of the United Workers Movement-NMI, said his group respects the position taken by the CNMI government.

"But we are also asking the U.S. Congress to take a fast action on the Interior recommendation. Public Law 110-229 allows only a report and recommendation from Interior, in consultation with the local government and Homeland Security secretary," Syed said.

He also called on the community to join a peaceful May 16 rally, to show the U.S. Congress that many in the CNMI support recommendations for improved immigration status for long-term alien workers in the CNMI.

The Fitial administration maintains that it was not properly consulted or consulted at all by Interior, besides asking for and receiving data from the CNMI.

But Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs Tony Babauta, during his presentation of the report to the CNMI government on April 30, said Interior held lots of consultations and meetings on the matter both in the CNMI and Washington, D.C.

for these projects range from \$1,500 to \$25 million and would be provided in the form of guaranteed loans and/or grants.

"This grant will allow rural small businesses and local farmers to do their part without negatively affecting their

JAPANESE

From Page 1

Japanese Reps. Shinsuke Amiya and Chobin Zukeran, two of the six visiting DPJ members, said they hope a meeting between Hatoyama and the governors of Guam and the CNMI will "accelerate" or bolster plans to renegotiate a 2006 accord between Japan and the U.S.

They also hope that the meeting, if successful, will become a "bridge" between the U.S. and Japan.

Fitial and Camacho said they look forward to the meeting, being arranged to take place soon in Japan.

"They will let me know when there's already a date," Fitial told *Saipan Tribune*.

Amiya and Chobin, who also served as translators for the Japanese and Marianas officials, they were happy with the results of their meeting with the CNMI and Guam leaders.

"Basically, we like to confirm the intention to accept the relocation of Marines from Okinawa. We like to confirm as to whether they welcome the relocation and also we like them to become bridge between U.S. government and Japanese government," said Amiya, who also served as translator during the Saturday morning meeting between Japanese and Marianas leaders in the governor's conference room on Capital Hill.

Fitial and Camacho, during the meeting, told the Japanese Diet members that any decision to accept or reject the relocation of troops to the CNMI or Guam rests with the U.S. government.

They also want the Japanese government to ensure that the CNMI and Guam would receive financial assistance to pay for the relocation costs and to pay for the impacts on infrastructure such as power, water, roads, hospitals, schools, public safety impacts, as well as impacts on the environment.

Fitial and Camacho want the CNMI and Guam governments to be heard in any talks on troop relocation, considering that they are the host islands who will bear the brunt of the socio-economic impacts brought by a surge in military population.

Camacho said Guam was not consulted in the negotiations between Japan and U.S. in relocating some 8,000 troops and 9,000 of their dependents to Guam by 2014.

As a result, he said the relocation's \$10 billion price tag will only be spent on base, and none will be used to pay for impacts on power, water, roads, hospitals, schools and other infrastructure used by the civilian population. He also talked about the impacts on the environment.

Camacho, in an interview with CNMI and Japan media after meeting with Japanese lawmakers, said Guam needs at least \$3 billion to fix and add to its existing infrastructure to meet the 25 percent surge in Guam population in less than five years.

Fitial said the CNMI is learning from the Guam experience.

But Amiya, Chobin, and their fellow lawmakers could not say how much Japan will be willing to pay for the

productivity or placing undue hardship on their financial resources," said Lt. Governor Michael W. Cruz.

A full description of the grant, including eligibility requirements and restrictions can be found at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/farmbill/index>.

relocation and socio-economic impact costs. They said this will depend on any re-negotiation between Japan and the U.S. on the 2006 agreement and on any socio-economic impact study.

"Actually they have a very strong intention to invite the Marines but having said that, they cannot announce anything with respect to relocation of Marines because that should be negotiated between U.S. government and Japan government," said Amiya.

'Unofficial but important'

Besides Amiya and Chobin, the four other Japanese lawmakers in the meeting were Sen. Kumiko Aihara; Rep. Hiroshi Kawauchi, who is chairman of the Committee on Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism; Shoichi Kondo, and Inao Minayoshi.

Amiya said their visit to Saipan and Tinian is "unofficial," but it is "important" in bringing together Japan and U.S. on talks about troop relocation related to the 2006 agreement.

Under the 2006 Japan-U.S. accord, the Futenma base will be transferred by 2014 to a coastal area of Camp Schwab on land that would be reclaimed.

But Hatoyama, who was elected Japan prime minister last year, campaigned on the promise to review the Futenma relocation agreement.

There has also been growing call from the people of Okinawa to reduce U.S. military presence in their area due to safety issues, among other things.

Hatoyama gave a self-imposed end-of-May deadline to seek an alternative to the 2006 agreement.

But the U.S. government is sticking to the 2006 accord. The U.S. government maintains that the 2006 plan is the only viable option that would both reduce U.S. military presence of U.S. forces on Okinawa and maintain security in the Asia-Pacific region.

Nevertheless, the six Japanese lawmakers, who met with CNMI and Guam officials on Saipan and Tinian on Saturday, are hoping that a meeting between Hatoyama and the Guam and CNMI governors will "accelerate" any plan on the part of Japan to renegotiate the 2006 plan.

Besides Fitial, the other CNMI officials present at the meeting were Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, Senate Floor Leader Pete P. Reyes, Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz, Special Assistant for Administration Esther Fleming, Fitial's special adviser Shigeyoshi Kato, Inos' legal counsel Teresa Kim, CNMI Military Integration Management Committee coordinator Tom Linden, Commerce deputy secretary Sixto Igisomar, and press secretary Angel Demapan.

The Japanese delegation, along with Fitial and other local officials, also went to Tinian to meet with the mayor and other leaders, including Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) and Rep. Trenton B. Conner (R-Tinian).

The Democratic Party of Japan, as well as the Socialist Democratic Party of Japan, is considering Tinian as a relocation site for up to 4,000 Marines at Futenma in Ginowan, Okinawa.

Two-thirds of land on the CNMI island of Tinian is leased to the U.S. Department of Defense.

html. Applicants must first submit their applications to the Guahan State Clearinghouse for review, prior to submission to the USDA. Final applications must be submitted to the nearest USDA Rural Development Office no later than 5pm on June 4, 2010. (PR)

CNMI's message

Fitial read a six-page prepared speech at the start of the meeting on Saturday morning, thanking the Japanese Diet members for visiting the CNMI.

"It should be made clear that the CNMI was never a negotiating party to this agreement. In view of this, our administration has consistently reiterated our position that while we embrace the idea of becoming a site for a military base and training facilities, we must also respect the existing agreement by refraining from meddling into the affairs of a pact forged by the U.S. and Japan," Fitial told the visiting lawmakers.

But he said if the U.S. government supports the relocation of troops to the CNMI, the Fitial administration will wholeheartedly embrace this movement and ensure that all areas of concerns such as social and economic impacts are fully and adequately addressed.

In his remarks, Fitial also noted the historic visit to the CNMI of Japan's Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko in June 2005, as well as the CNMI's historic and economic ties to Japan.

The CNMI used to be a Japanese stronghold until the U.S. took control of the islands during the war. Decades later, Japan became and still is the CNMI's main tourism market.

Reclaiming Guahan

Fitial also recognized the presence of the Guam governor, whom he described as his brother.

Camacho, when asked by the Japanese lawmakers, talked about his administration's move to restore Guam's original name, Guahan.

He said in 1910, an American admiral changed Guahan to Guam.

"I asked that we restore and reclaim our name Guahan... not the name given to us by other people," Camacho said.

Camacho reiterated Guam's support of the military buildup but there are also social and economic impacts that need to be considered. He said the island is "extremely limited in our financial capacity to be a good host to the U.S. Marines."

He said although they have asked from the United States, it "has resulted in very little, if any" help.

"And while the two governments [U.S. and Japan] have agreed on this, it was done without consultation or consideration for Guahan, our people. We are now stuck with having to accommodate this because we are a territory of the United States," Camacho said.

Camacho said Guam people are now beginning to realize that all the promises of economic benefits are outweighed by the costs to the people, the infrastructure such as hospitals, schools, roads, landfills, water, power, and the degradation of the environment.

"And this will forever change our culture, it will forever change our people, and that is a very high cost. They cannot expect the people of Guahan to bear that cost nor should we take on that burden. We must get assistance," he said.

But just like Fitial, Camacho said the troop relocation has more proponents than opponents.

Five schools get highest share of federal grants

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Five schools—three secondary and two primary—will get the biggest chunk of this year's federal monies allocated for the Public School System, including the one-time State Fiscal Stabilization Fund under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

In a second quarter report released by the Board of Education, Marianas High Schools will get the highest federal assistance, amounting to \$3.8

million. The oldest high school has an average of 1,200 students each school year.

Hopwood Junior High School, which also has over a thousand enrollees, comes second with an allocation of \$2.267 million, while Saipan Southern High School will get \$2.028 million for its nearly 800 students.

Two elementary schools—William S. Reyes Elementary and Garapan Elementary—topped the list of primary schools with the highest federal assistance. WSR was appropri-

ated \$1.545 million while GES has \$1.358 million, respectively. Both campuses have over 800 enrollees every school year.

PSS administers 20 public schools on three islands. Every year, it receives federal grants estimated to reach \$32 million, excluding the \$34.2 million in SFSF money.

Others schools' allocation based on the report included \$659,182 for Chacha Oceanview; Dandan Elementary, \$566,081; Gregorio T. Camacho, \$407,706; Kagman Elementary, \$875,608; Kobler-

ville Elementary, \$770,167; and Kagman High School, \$1.460 million.

Oleai Elementary was allocated \$915,081; Rota High, \$904,018; Rota Junior High, \$761,247; San Antonio Elementary, \$545,800; and Sinapalo Elementary, \$501,247.

San Vicente Elementary, meantime, was appropriated \$847,828; Tanapag Elementary, 4683,982; Tinian Elementary, 4589,834; and Tinian High School, \$820,076.

eral assistance received by PSS has grown significantly in the last few years, quadrupling from the \$7 million it got in 1992.

"When PSS started to receive federal program funding in 1992, it was only pegged at \$7 million. Today, the figure has quadrupled, even excluding the one-time two-year multimillion dollar SFSF," the report stated.

It is this increased funding that has enabled PSS to meet its needs, particularly in classroom instruction.

This is particularly significant when compared to the

increasingly smaller amounts that PSS gets from the central government. PSS' local budget has been sliding down, with its current funding level of \$31.4 million deemed to be the lowest amount received by public schools in two decades.

For the past 12 years, the report stated that the state's funding level for the education system continues to nosedive from \$43 million in FY 1997 to \$31.4 million this fiscal year.

Because of this, the CNMI spends less than half of the national average in terms of per child cost per year.

NMI works to improve emergency communications capabilities

The CNMI continues to make progress toward improving its emergency communications capabilities.

On April 29, the CNMI held a workshop that brought together over 15 state and local public safety officials from across the CNMI government agencies to further implement the state-wide strategic plan known as the State-wide Communication Interoperability Plan, SCIP, and improve statewide interoperable communications capabilities.



Kosam

The meeting included representatives from CNMI Homeland Security Office, Emergency Management Office, Commonwealth Ports Authority, PSS, Department of Finance, Saipan Mayor's Office, and Public Health.

Emergency communications interoperability refers to the ability of emergency responders, police officers, fire personnel, and emergency medical services to share vital voice and data information across disciplines and jurisdictions during emergency incidents.

With support from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Office of Emergency Communications, meeting participants discussed communications interoperability gaps and statewide initiatives to meet those gaps. Participants also used the meeting as an opportunity to discuss the state's strategic path forward.

CNMI's Office of Homeland Security special adviser Patrick Tenorio and the state's SCIPs working group and local Public Safety officials will continue to work together in the future to address first responders' interoperable communications.

The CNMI has made significant strides in communications interoperability through such efforts as establishing MOUS to outline roles and responsibility of all appropriate agencies with regards to interoperability, procured upgradeable P25 compliant radios for the Department of Public Safety, Tinian and Rota Moto-Turbo interoperability radios, and ongoing Motorola upgrade Astro P25 compliant

for Saipan.

These initiatives are included in the States SCIP, which aligns with OEC's National Emergency Communications Plan, a national strategic plan for improving emergency communications capabilities. This alignment ensures the CNMI is tackling interoperable communications in a strategic way that is consistent with national policies.

"This is important that we take these initiatives ensuring our first

responders across the CNMI and government support agencies have better statewide interoperability," said Jordon Lee I. Kosam, Chief of Ports Police and the chairman of CNMI SCIP. "The CNMI SCIP's long-term goal is to have all government agencies able to talk to one another during incidents or any significant event. During an emergency response incident, voice and data communications are essential to the success of an operation. Through continued efforts such as these, the state is improving its ability to respond to incidents of all varieties." (PR)

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NMC names outstanding student, employees of the year

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Five individuals were named outstanding employees and student of the Northern Marianas College during the Charter Day celebration on campus Friday night.

Interim president Lorraine Cabrera, Board of Regents chair Janet Han King, and Associated Students of NMC vice president Danny Kintol conferred the \$300 cash prize, \$50 gas certificate, and the privilege of having a designated parking space throughout the year to each awardees.

Student leader Milescelyn Rodriguez was named the college's student of the year for her community service at numerous health functions, fairs, and competitive events. Rodriguez, who is among the graduating students this semester and is the current ASNMC president, sits as an honorary member of the Board of Regents representing the voices of her peers.

Named outstanding faculty member of the year was Velma C. Deleon Guerrero, a full-time employee at the college for two

years now. Nominated by several students, Deleon Guerrero reports to work early in the morning and has never cancelled a class. She also makes sure that her classes continue to run even when she was pursuing a Framingham course. NMC described its best faculty member as very consistent in enforcing and modeling norms and standards. Deleon Guerrero, NMC said, makes herself available for students when they need support or additional guidance for their class activities and projects.

For outstanding non-instructional faculty, NMC conferred the award on Dr. Dilip Nandwani, who has been involved within NMC and the community by providing valuable assistance to farmers, students, faculty and community members.

Saipan Tribune learned that Nandwani has received recognition at national and international levels by publishing peer-reviewed research articles and has represented NMC at national and international conferences.

Nandwani, who has also received several horticultural society awards, was described as a



MONETH G. DEPOSA

Participants in this year's NMC Charter Day Coconut Husking Competition wowed the crowd during Friday's celebration on campus. The competition was won by Bill Joseph, who was awarded a cash prize after husking five coconuts in 33 seconds.

scientist who can give advice on healing and curing ailments using organic resources. He works at NMC's CREES program.

The staff of the year award went to Lee Ivan Bowen, who has been instrumental in helping to make things happen at NMC. Bowen has been with the college for over six years and has been serving various capacities on campus.

NMC described him as an all-around kind of person who everyone can count on when the unexpected strikes, from helping prepare the institution for special visits, to helping employees secure the area before a typhoon hits. "Bowen's service to the college has helped to keep the institution conducive

to learning," NMC said.

The alumni of the year award was conferred on Joaquin O. Kiyoshi Jr., who remains active in helping the college and the larger community. Kiyoshi plays an integral part in hosting Coffee Connections, which provides staff and employees a venue to mingle and has been a big help in the recent golf tournament and other college fundraisers.

Besides this, Kiyoshi also assists students who need help with their courses. The awardee is also the current president of the NMC Alumni Association and president of the Napu Life Foundation whose goal is to educate the community about HIV-AIDS awareness.

Delta: A big sponsor of CNMI STEM Fair competition



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Chris Concepcion and Esther Sound, sales representatives of Delta Air Lines, pose with public and private school students and teachers/chaperones, who went to Guam for the Annual Guam Science and Engineering Fair competition held Saturday, May 8, 2010.

CNMI students from public and private schools participated in the Annual Guam Science and Engineering Fair competition at University of Guam last

Saturday, May 8, 2010.. The CNMI Public School System, in collaboration with Delta Air Lines, sent 27 students and 12 chaperones to Guam for the

competition.

Delta Airlines generously provided CNMI students with free round trip tickets to Guam to participate in the competition. These students—who won first place in different clusters and categories in 3rd Annual CNMI-wide Science, Technology, Electronics, and Mathematics Fair held last March 19 at Marianas High School Gym—com-

peted against different public and private schools in Guam on Saturday.

According to Chris Concepcion, coordinator and sales representative of Delta Air Lines, the company fundraises every year to sponsor different students' activities. This year, Delta Air Lines chose to sponsor the CNMI STEM Fair winners. **(PR)**

Drunk man allegedly beats up wife, threatens to burn house

An intoxicated 52-year-old man allegedly assaulted his common-law wife and threatened to kill her and burn their house in Garapan Wednesday night.

Silvano Corpuz Jacinto was arrested on Friday for assault and battery, assault, criminal mischief, and disturbing the peace.

Superior Court associate judge Ramona V. Manglona imposed a \$5,000 cash bail for Jacinto's temporary release.

Preliminary hearing was set for May 17 at 9am.

Detective Peter A. Aldan stated in his report that Jacinto had arrived home Wednesday night after drinking with some friends.

Jacinto knocked on the door and asked the victim to give him

a shirt. After the victim handed him a shirt, Jacinto reportedly began cussing and threatened to hit her.

In fear, the victim locked the front door of their residence. The defendant got more angry and broke down the front door in half and entered the house.

The wife tried to run away, but Jacinto grabbed her, squeezed her face with his hands, and threatened he would kill her and burn the house.

The victim managed to free herself and ran to a neighbor's house where she called police. Jacinto followed her to the neighbor's house and kept knocking on the door.

The victim only stepped out when a police officer arrived. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB10-DOC-098**

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THIS IS AN AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009 PROJECT AND AS SUCH ALL MATERIALS PURCHASED MUST BE MANUFACTURED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE IT IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW.

/s/ MICHAEL J. ADA
SECRETARY OF COMMERCE

/s/ MARTIN C. SABLAN
SECRETARY OF DPW

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

**MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, The Open Government Act of 1992, the Marianas Public Land Trust has scheduled a MPLT Trustees Regular Meeting to be held on **Thursday, May 13, 2010** beginning at 9:00 AM at the Rota Resort Hotel Board Room; Rota, MP.

The following agenda is hereby established:

I PRELIMINARIES

- Call to Order
- Roll Call
- Adoption of Agenda
- Adoption of Minutes

II CONSULTANT'S REPORTS

- Investment Consultant Reports
- Loan Administrator Reports
- Legal Counsel Reports
- Board Consultant Reports
 - Financial Statements – MAR 2010
 - Flash Reports – MAR 2010

III OLD BUSINESS

- Selection of Trustee Liability Insurance
- Administrative Matters for Review
- Selection of A/E Firm for MPLT Administration Building

IV COMMUNICATIONS

- Trustee/Administration Matters

V NEW BUSINESS

- 2010 Trustees and Administrator Institutes/Investment Course – Hedge Funds, Real Estate and Other Alternative Investments
- Managing Pension Liabilities and Costs

VI MISCELLANEOUS

VII ADJOURNMENT

At anytime during this scheduled meeting, the Board of Trustees may be required to enter into Executive Session to discuss matters deemed privileged and confidential.

In accordance with Public Law 8-41, additional agenda items may be added to the above listing only by the recorded vote of the majority of the trustee governing body. All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written and oral testimony on the above agenda items.

/s/ Phillip Mendiola-Long, AIF
Chairman, MPLT Trustees

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NOTICE OF AUCTION
IN THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, hereinafter referred to as NMHC, as auctioneer and seller, hereby gives notice that all of the rights, title, and interests of the following described real property situated in Garapan, Saipan, CNMI will be sold at an auction:

Lot No. 003 D 02 (Formerly Block 1 Lot 2), as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat Number 003 D 00 dated February 19, 1971, the original of which was registered with the Land Registry on the 1st day of March, 1971, as Document No. 689, and containing an area of 1,022 square meters, more or less, together with the improvements and fixtures located thereon and therein and the appurtenances and all the rights, title, and interest of, in, and to the land lying in all streets, highways, and rights of ways abutting on or appurtenant to said premises.

Minimum Bid: The minimum bid for the property mentioned above in this notice shall be \$90,000.00.

The auction will be open to the general public and will be held at NMHC's conference room, Garapan, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, June 11, 2010, subject to the following announced terms and conditions:

1. **Reserve:** The auction sale shall be held with reserve.
2. **Rights and Duties of Auctioneer:** Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, auctioneer and seller shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
 - a. To withdraw the property listed for sale in this announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
 - b. To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
 - c. To reject any and all bids.
3. **Bids:** Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for the property listed in this notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Mr. Joshua T. Sasamoto, Corporate Director, NMHC, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950; Telephone: 234-6866; Facsimile: 234-9021; or to Mr. Vicente T. Salas, Esq., P.O. Box 501309, Saipan, MP 96950; Telephone: 234-7455; Facsimile: 234-7256.
4. **Deposit:** Payment: A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within three (3) calendar days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within three (3) calendar days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title, and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to NMHC.
5. **Change of Terms:** Auctioneer and NMHC reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
6. **Inspection and No Warranty:** Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact NMHC for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

Dated this 7th day of May, 2010.

/s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO, Corporate Director

ON IMPROVED IMMIGRATION STATUS RECOMMENDATION

Alien workers, IRs to seek community's support

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Leaders and supporters of groups composed of alien workers and those with immediate relative status will seek the help of the local community, businesses, government officials, and even the church, to support the U.S. Department of the Interior's recommendation for improved immigration status for long-term guest workers in the CNMI.

During a strategy meeting held Saturday at the American Memorial Park's Theater, organizers and supporters agreed to form a "united voice" by seeking the community's support through a petition, a motorcade, letters, videos, photographs, and social networking sites, among other things.

Saturday's meeting featured several speakers that included former lawmaker Tina Sablan, attorneys Jane Mack and Stephen Woodruff, and Sr. Stella Mangoña. Representatives and members of different nationalities and groups filled the theater.

Sablan, who explained what will happen to Interior's recommendations upon submission to Congress, said that workers shouldn't think that local residents won't support improved immigration status

for them.

The former representative said she, her family, and many friends support Interior's recommendations.

Sablan said it is very important for workers to get organized and communicate. She said they should start circulating additional petitions.

Mack underscored the importance of soliciting the community's support, saying workers should learn from the marine monument petition, which many government leaders opposed at the beginning. She said they rallied the support of government leaders at the 11th hour because of the community's strong support as shown in the number of people who signed the petition.

"Go out and talk to the people. Talk to your neighbors. Be respectful when you talk to them," she said.

Mack also urged workers to get the support of the Catholic Church, which holds "huge power" in the CNMI. She said workers should also seek the support of other churches and religious leaders in the community.

Mack said some people and government leaders don't understand that when the military buildup starts in Guam, many alien workers, including those in the CNMI, will be needed.

Woodruff suggested having coordinators for each village in order to get the needed support.

He said the federalization law has been seven months now and, despite the weak economy, works quite well. He noted that the illegal recruitment of alien workers and other labor problems stopped when the federalization law took effect.

He also observed that many local residents are now working in many private companies.

Woodruff said the economy should have been better now if the administration had cooperated with federal officials from the get-go.

Woodruff emphasized that the five DOI recommendations are all good, not only for long-term workers but also for the CNMI. He, however, believes that even those below the five-year residency requirement should be included.

"You are all part of the CNMI," Woodruff told the workers. "It's your home."

Woodruff said there is no united voice for the CNMI unless there is support from the long-term workers.

Mangoña urged workers to continue communicating with one another in order to have a united voice. She said she will assist workers in getting the

support of church leaders.

United United Workers
Movement-NMI president

Rabby Syed said they need to have a loud voice to bring the long-term workers' plight to

the attention of Congress, and this could only be done by being united on the issue.



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Nonresident workers listen to the speakers during last Saturday's strategy meeting held at the American Memorial Park's Theater.

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BEFORE THE COMMONWEALTH PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

REVIEW OF COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION'S UTILITY RATES

DOCKETS 09-1, 09-2 & 10-1

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that at 9:00 a.m. on May 21, 2010, the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission [Commission] will conduct a public hearing at the conference room of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, located on the first floor of the Family Building, Garapan Street, Garapan to receive evidence, argument, discussion and public comment on the following regulatory matters concerning the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation [CUC].

1. Docket 10-1: CUC petition for rate relief.

The Commission will examine CUC's April 1, 2010 amended petition for rate relief, which requests that effective on or about June 21, 2010 [the effective date] its water service fees and metered rates per 1,000 gallons for all customer classes be increased by 3 percent. In its amended petition, CUC also requests that: a) its wastewater monthly service fee for all customer classes be established and increased on the effective date from \$8.20 to \$15.99 and then on October 1, 2010 to \$21.59; b) its residential and commercial metered rate per 1,000 gallons of wastewater service be increased on the effective date from \$1.37 to \$2.67 and on then on October 1, 2010 to \$3.61; and that c) its government metered rate per 1,000 gallons of wastewater service be increased on the effective date from \$30.00 to \$59.00 and then on October 1, 2010 to \$80.00. CUC asserts that these increases are just, reasonable and necessary to enable it to comply with: a) the statutory mandate that it bill and collect adequate rate revenue to recover the costs associated with the operation and delivery of service, including financial reserves and b) the requirements of the Federal Stipulated Order dated March 11, 2009, in USA v. CUC and CNMI.

In its amended petition, CUC also requests that the Commission approve: a) a credit card convenience fee of 2.1% for customers who pay their utility bills with Visa or MasterCard and a fee of 3.7% for customers who pay their bills with American Express; and b) a standby charge of \$5 per kW for CUC commercial customers, which are connected to the CUC electric grid and who regularly generate some portion of their own electricity needs. CUC's amended petition is supported by testimony and documentary evidence, which is available for public review at the Chamber's office and also on-line at the Chamber's website [www.saipanchamber.com] under Public Utilities, Docket 10-01.

The Commission tasked its independent regulatory consultant [Georgetown] to investigate, review and submit testimony on CUC's petition. Georgetown's report was filed with the Commission on May 5, 2010 and is also available for public review at both the Chamber's office and website. In its report, Georgetown asserts that: a) no present increase in CUC water rates is necessary; b) the staggered wastewater rate increases sought by CUC should be frontloaded and implemented on the effective date; c) a flat charge of \$40 per month should be established for unmetered residential water service and a flat rate of \$204 per month be established for unmetered commercial water service; and d) a residential and commercial monthly wastewater service fee of \$18.72 should be implemented on the effective date; and e) CUC's wastewater tariff should be redesigned.

2. Docket 09-1: CUC Electric Division. LEAC Rate and collateral matters.

Pursuant to a tariff [levelized energy adjustment clause] established on December 19, 2008 by Commission order, the Commission reviews and approves the semi-annual rate, which CUC is authorized to charge its electric customers in order to recover its projected fuel and related expenses during the period. On May 5, 2010, CUC and Georgetown filed a joint report and recommendation that for the period June 1, 2010 through September 30, 2010, the current LEAC rate of \$0.20147 cents per kWh be increased to \$0.27634 cents per kWh. The proposed increase would increase the average monthly residential electric bill [1,000 kWh per month] by approximately 36 percent. This joint report also reconciles projected versus actual fuel expenses incurred by CUC in prior LEAC periods and recommends appropriate adjustments in order to keep LEAC charges revenue neutral. The May 5, 2010 joint CUC/Georgetown LEAC report is available for public inspection at the Chamber's office and at its website under Public Utilities - Docket 09-1. At the public hearing, the Commission will also consider CUC's April 1, 2010 petition for reconsideration of the Commission's September 3, 2009 order regarding regulatory conditions for approval of the CUC-CDA Preferred Stock Agreement, as further discussed in said order.

3. Docket 09-2: CUC - Water and Wastewater Divisions.

On January 31, 2010, CUC petitioned the Commission for approval of certain elements of a proposed settlement agreement between CUC, Guam Pacific Power Corporation and CPPC Construction. On May 5, 2010, Georgetown issued a report, in which it expressed serious reservations about certain elements of the transaction. The parties will be requested to brief the Commission on this regulatory matter at the public hearing.

THE COMMISSION WELCOMES THE PUBLIC'S ATTENDANCE at the May 21, 2010 public hearing and will welcome public comments at the conclusion of the hearing. Persons who desire to formally participate in the hearing pursuant to 4 CMC § 8409(j) should on or before May 14, 2010 file with the Commission at the Chamber's office an application and offer of proof in accordance with §8409(j) and Commission Procedural Rule 11(c). Subsequent to the public hearing, the Commission will schedule, notice and conduct a special business meeting to consider and make decisions regarding matters considered at the public hearing. Further information about the public hearing and the public's right to participate may be obtained from Commissioner Kyle Calabrese at 670-233-7150.

Exit poll: Filipino voters in the NMI pick Noynoy, Mar

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Liberal Party's Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III is leading the vote in the early results of the 2010 overseas absentee voting in the CNMI, an exit poll conducted by *Saipan Tribune* yesterday showed.

Aquino is ahead with 25 votes or 76 percent of the total number of voters surveyed at the Philippine Consulate General in Susupe where absentee voters turned in their accomplished ballots.



Aquino

The Arroyo administration's presidential bet, Gilberto "Gibo" Teodoro Jr., is a distant second with five votes or 15 percent of the total voters being surveyed.

In the vice presidential race, Aquino's running mate, Sen. Mar Roxas, is on top with 24 votes or 73 percent of total voters surveyed.

Running second is Joseph Estrada's running mate, Jejomar Binay, who got six votes or 18 percent of the total voters surveyed.

Aquino and Roxas, both senators, have consistently topped many surveys in the Philippines among the presidential and vice presidential candidates.

Aquino is the only son of the late president Corazon Aquino and assassinated senator Benigno Aquino Jr.

There are 10 candidates for president, eight for vice president, 61 for senators, and 187 party lists in today's May 10 election.

Exit polls are surveys of a small percentage of voters taken after they leave the voting place.

There are 7,169 registered Filipino voters in the CNMI. But the number is much lower due to the many workers who have already left the CNMI.

Philippine Consul General Medardo Macaraig believes that his office had the biggest number of voters who turned in their accomplished ballots yesterday.

When *Saipan Tribune* left the Consulate General yesterday at 4pm, there were still a few voters who were filling up their ballots.

Macaraig is hoping that there will be no overcrowding at the Consulate today, Monday, the last day of voting.

The Consulate is open today from 8am to 8pm. The counting of votes will be held at the ground floor of the Marianas Business Plaza at 8pm.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

May 10, 1999

Money woes will not affect PSS accreditation

Board of Chairman Esther Fleming remains confident that the budgetary constraints confronting the Public School System will not jeopardize the accreditation standing of most schools. Since last month, various public schools had their mid-term or self-study visits of teams coming from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges and money matters were seriously discussed. Yes, the timing is bad but PSS officials are optimistic that schools will continue to receive their WASC accreditation.

CNMI's pitch to become a retirement hub gains support

After their short stay in the CNMI, a number of military personnel have already expressed interest in establishing residency and retiring in the Northern Marianas. The Saipan Chamber of Commerce recently received a number of inquiries which prove that the islands have become more than just a destination where US Navy men and women can enjoy their brief rest and recreation. At the same time, Capt. John J. Donnelly, Chief of Staff of the US Seventh Fleet, has invited Chamber members to visit Yokosuka, Japan to promote the Northern Marianas to the officers and their families who are stationed there. He has also recommended that CNMI officials promote the Northern Marianas as a family destination to other military bases throughout Asia.

May 10, 2000

SBA officials discuss business possibilities for NMI

Top officials of the United States Small Business Administration discussed business potentials of the Northern Marianas in separate meetings with Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio and some members of the 12th CNMI Legislature yesterday. The meeting also touched on other areas where the federally-funded SBA can be of help in the Commonwealth government's efforts to revitalize the island's economic and business activities. One particular area is the establishment of the Microloan Program under the Commonwealth Development Authority which assists indigenous individuals put up their own business through a loan package of up to \$25,000.

Lawyers, Tanapag residents discuss lawsuit

It was a frank discussion on what the Tanapag residents will face when they decide to file the class action suit seeking damages for the destruction of environment and public health against federal agencies and private companies responsible for the polychlorinated biphenyl contamination in their village. Lawyer Charles S. Siegel explained to the villagers their legal rights, the legal procedure and challenges they will face should they decide to file the case. He said the case may have to be filed before the federal court in Saipan. Mr. Siegel and his companion Andy Waters are Texas-based lawyers came here to investigate the PCB contamination in the village after they were contacted by House legal counsel Steve Mackenzie. They have had experience in handling environmental and health cases related to toxic chemicals poisoning.

May 10, 2001

CUC blames Garapan customers for high water losses

A day after admitting that human error caused dry taps in one of Saipan's most populated areas, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. yesterday revealed that Garapan residents are also the most abusive when it comes to water use. CUC Special Advisor for Corporate Affairs Pamela A. Mathis said that of the 3.3 million gallons of water squandered on the island each day, majority is wasted in the households and business establishments located in Garapan. Considering the village only gets the water one-and-a-half hours every other day only makes the statistic more baffling, Mathis said.

Govt lawyer may face sanction

A government lawyer may face disciplinary action for alleged dereliction of duty in connection with an appeal filed at the Ninth Circuit Court over a federal jury verdict on a case involving police brutality. The Attorney General's Office is reportedly in the process of "terminating" Asst. Attorney General William Betz for alleged failure to do his part in an appeal that has been scheduled for opening brief on May 14, 2001. The brief was originally due on April 13, 2001 but was moved to May 14 as per Mr. Betz's request. Attorney General Herb Soll said yesterday that the AG is considering Mr. Betz's removal from the case, as he stressed that the embattled lawyer should be given the opportunity to air his side.



COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

P.O. Box 502149, Saipan MP 96950

Tel: (670) 234-6245/6293/7145/7146 • Fax: (670) 235-7147

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

The Commonwealth Development Authority will auction various furniture and equipments from the Pacific Gardenia Hotel on Saturday, May 22, 2010.

The auction shall be subject to the following terms and conditions:

1. The items are being sold **"AS IS"** and **"WHERE IS"**;
2. The items are being sold **WITHOUT WARRANTY** of any type;
3. The public auction will be held at the **PACIFIC GARDENIA HOTEL** on **Saturday, May 22, 2010 at 9:00 a.m.**
4. Full payment is required before items can be removed from the premises and Buyer is responsible for removing purchased items;
5. Terms of the sale are cash, credit card (MC and Visa) or certified check; and
6. CDA reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to withdraw this notice and postpone the sale.

Inventory list will be made available online and at the CDA office by Wednesday, May 12, 2010. The hotel will be open for inspections on Thursday and Friday, May 20 and 21 from 1 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

/s/ **MANUEL A. SABLAN**
Executive Director





From left to right: Anheuser-Busch InBev executive Bob Steck, winner Rachel Hildebrandt and her husband Aaron Hildebrandt, and AAFES Guam & Saipan general manager Flor Payton.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Lucky couple gets to see World Cup—for free

HAGĀTÑA, Guam—Anheuser-Busch InBev announced Friday the military grand prize winner of the Budweiser World Cup Sweepstakes. Rachel Hildebrandt and her husband Aaron will be taking off on June 13 for an all-expense-paid trip to watch the FIFA World Cup™ matches live in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Local Guam residents still have a chance to win the Flyaway Package to the 2010 FIFA World Cup™ in Johannesburg,

South Africa. Purchase any 12 or 18 packs of the Bud Family Beers and receive an entry form for your chance to win the Grand Prize. The drawing will be held at the SK Lounge on May 28, from 8pm to 10pm.

The grand prize winner and a companion will receive a trip of a lifetime to experience the 2010 FIFA World Cup™ including hotel, meals, transfers and tickets to the games.

“This Budweiser promotion

was created to generate excitement and support for football on Guam,” said Tom Shimizu, general manager, Ambros Inc. “Ambros has been a proud sponsor and partner to the Guam Football Association, FIFA member since 1996. This will give a unique opportunity to a lucky Guam football fan to experience first-hand the world’s best footballers playing in the most prestigious international championship.” *(PR)*

Air Force sets FDM military training

SANTA RITA, Guam—The U.S. Air Force will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on May 10-13, from 7am to 8pm.

The public, especially fisherman, commercial pilots and marine tour operators, are advised to stay clear from the area during

the times and dates indicated.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants. Farallon de Medinilla plays a special and unique role in national defense because its location provides ac-

cess frequency that supports established training requirements. In addition, the air and sea space in Farallon provides sufficient room for the many different attack profiles necessary to replicate training opportunities in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. *(USN)*

NMC Summer 2010 Calendar

The Northern Marianas College has announced the following academic dates for the Summer 2010 Semester:

Regular summer session: May 24 – July 23, 2010 (9 Weeks)

May 19 – 21: Registration (9am – 6pm)
May 24: First Day of Instruction
May 24 – 26: Add/Drop Days
May 31: Legal Holiday (Memorial Day)
June 1: Last Day for 80 percent refund
June 4: Last Day of 40 percent refund
June 11: Last Day to Withdraw
July 5: Legal Holiday (Liberation Day)
July 22: Last Day of Instruction
July 23: Final Exam

Extended summer session:

May 26 – Aug. 14, 2010 (12 Weeks)

May 19 – 21: Registration (9am – 6pm)
May 24: First Day of Instruction
May 24 – 26: Add/Drop Days
May 31: Legal Holiday (Memorial Day)
June 4: Last Day for 80 percent refund
June 11: Last Day for 40 percent refund
June 18: Last Day to Withdraw
July 5: Legal Holiday (Liberation Day)
Aug. 12: Last Day of Instruction
Aug. 13: Final Exam


SUMMER SESSION I: May 24 – July 2, 2010 (6 Weeks)

May 19 – 21: Registration (9am – 6pm)
May 24: First Day of Instruction
May 24 – 26: Add/Drop Days
May 28: Last Day for 80 percent refund


May 31: Legal Holiday (Memorial Day)
June 2: Last Day for 40 percent refund
June 4: Last Day to Withdraw
July 1: Last Day of Instruction
July 2: Final Exam

SUMMER SESSION II: July 6 – August 13, 2010 (6 Weeks)

May 19 – July 2: Registration (9am – 6pm)
May 31: Legal Holiday (Memorial Day)
July 5: Legal Holiday (Liberation Day)
July 6: First Day of Instruction
July 6 – 8: Add/Drop Days
July 12: Last Day for 80 percent refund
July 14: Last Day for 40 percent refund
July 16: Last Day to Withdraw
Aug. 12: Last Day of Instruction
Aug. 13: Final Exam



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
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INVITATION FOR BID

NMHC IFB 2010-R-003

(This ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD funds)

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, hereby give notice that NMHC is soliciting sealed bids for the **Construction of the Tinian Amphitheater Parking Lot Infiltration System** in San Jose Village, Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project package consisting of Technical Specifications, Plans and Bid Documents will be available on or after Monday, May 03, 2010, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays. A non-refundable payment of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) is required for each set. Payment shall be by money order or cashier's check (payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation).

Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, however, Article 7, “Local Business Preference” as amended by Public Law 15-95 and further amended by Public Law 15-118, **is not available** to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this project.

Bidders are also advised that this project is subject to compliance with the Davis-Bacon Act. All wage rates for laborers, mechanics and all other employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid the current minimum wage or the wage determination for the Commonwealth as required by the CNMI law/Federal law, whichever is higher.

A **pre-bid conference** will be held at **10:00 a.m. on Thursday, May 27, 2010**, at the Tinian Amphitheater in San Jose Village, Tinian and all interested bidders will be given the opportunity to walk through the proposed project, familiarize themselves with the required work and ask questions regarding the project. Attendance at this conference and site visit are considered essential to the bidders' understanding of the project elements and a company that does not have a representative in attendance at the pre-bid conference will be considered as a non-responsive bidder.

Sealed Bids must be marked **“NMHC IFB2010-R-003”**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director, Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m., local time, Monday, June 07, 2010**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m., local time, June 07, 2010 and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515 or via e-mail to procurement@pricom.com. For bidders located outside of the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U. S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than June 07, 2010, AND must be received by Procurement and Supply no later than June 16, 2010. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, June 17, 2010. However, if no Notices of Intent to Bid are received from bidders outside of the CNMI, the bids will be opened at 10:00 a.m., local time, June 07, 2010.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00), a bid security of fifteen percent (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be in the form of a Certified Check, Cashier's Check, or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC), with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: **“Construction of the Tinian Amphitheater Parking Lot Infiltration System”**. Surety companies must hold a Certificate of Authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsible bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the NMIAC §70.30.3.301 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with NMHC and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment Bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000. Pursuant to Governor's Directive 251 dated March 15, 2006, bidders are required to include a Clearance from the Office of the Insurance Commissioner with respect to the financial bonding capability of the bidders' chosen Surety. In addition, the contractor will be required to deliver a certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments or other bond obligations) exceeded the penal amount of each bond.

Performance time for completion of this project is ninety (90) calendar days upon issuance of an official written Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for the delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed at Five Hundred Dollars (US\$500.00) per calendar day.

This project is funded by a grant from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under its Community Development Block Grant, American Recovery and Reinvestment (CDBG-R) funding provided to the Commonwealth that mandates ALL MATERIALS PURCHASED AND INCORPORATED INTO THE BUILDING/WORK MUST BE MANUFACTURED OR PRODUCED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.


This project which goal is to provide economic stimulus as well as jobs creation is also subject to Section 3 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1968 which requires recipients of HUD funds and the contractors to help insure that the economic opportunities generated by these HUD funds are provided to local low-income residents and the businesses that serve them “to the maximum extent feasible.”

NMHC hereby notifies bidders that it will affirmatively insure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, women and small business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, national origin, political affiliation, creed, sex, religion, age, familial status, and disability status.


The Government reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any defects in the said proposals, if in the sole opinion of NMHC, to do so would be in its best interest. All proposals will become the property of the Government.

/s/ Marcie M. Tomokane
Board Chairwoman & Contracting Officer


/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Division of Procurement & Supply



NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.



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NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY
for
PROGRAM YEAR 2010
and
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
This ad is paid for by HUD Funds.

The government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands expects an allocation of \$880,551 Community Development Block Grants (CDBG); \$647,474 Home Investment Partnerships (HOME); and, \$63,386 Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) funds for Program Year (PY) 2010 from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

CDBG funds, authorized under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, may be used for a wide range of community development activities to revitalize neighborhoods, provide affordable housing, expand economic opportunities, and improve community facilities and services. However, use of these funds must meet at least one of the national objectives which include: 1) to benefit low and moderate-income families; 2) to eliminate slum or blight conditions; or 3) meet urgent community development needs.

The CDBG program requires grant recipients to certify that it will minimize displacement of persons as a result of activities assisted with CDBG funds. The CNMI government does not plan on undertaking any activity which will cause displacement of persons. In the event of any unforeseen displacement resulting from any CDBG-funded activity, the CNMI government will comply with the requirements of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, its implementing regulation and applicable local law.

HOME funds may be used to create affordable housing through financial assistance, site acquisition, or improvement, and rehabilitating existing residential dwellings as well as providing funds for new construction or purchase of a single-family residential dwelling. Use of HOME funds must benefit low-income families.


ESG funds may be used to rehabilitate or convert buildings into homeless shelters and for shelter operating expenses, supportive services and homeless prevention activities. Use of ESG funds must benefit the homeless.

In order to plan ahead as to the use(s) of the PY 2010 allocation which is expected within the next few months, the NMHC which administers the CPD program on behalf of the CNMI government, will be conducting hearings to obtain public input on community development and housing needs, and to provide information to the public on the status of the approved ongoing CDBG projects. The public hearings will be held as follows:

1. On Rota, May 26, 2010, at 6:30 p.m. at the NMHC Office, Songsong Village, Rota;
2. On Tinian, May 27, 2010, at 6:30 p.m. at the CDA/NMHC Office in San Jose Village, Tinian; and,
3. On Saipan, May 28, 2010, at 6:00 p.m. at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan.

Additional inquiries concerning the CDBG program may be directed in writing to the Corporate Director, or Jeannie P. Mafnas, Planner/Grant Writer, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P.O. 500514, Saipan, MP. 96950, or by calling 234-6866 or 234-7689.

/s/ Joshua T. Sasamoto
Corporate Director



NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender, and employer.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

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EDITORIAL

Times Square case reveals changed terror landscape

In case you haven't noticed, we've moved fully into a world of Terrorism 2.0. England saw it with the 2005 London subway bombing executed not by shadowy foreigners but British citizens. It has become a fact of life here, too, that terrorism attacks increasingly are being planned and carried out by Americans who might be the dad next door.

Of course, long before we had Faisal Shahzad, the suspect arrested in Saturday's failed Times Square bombing, we had Timothy McVeigh, so this trend isn't entirely new. But the last few years have seen more Americans taking up arms against their country. Authorities say that includes Shahzad, who married an American, became a citizen, earned a U.S. college degree and was raising his kids in Connecticut.

The war on terror started as a battle against al-Qaeda in Afghanistan but has morphed into a response to smaller pockets of terrorists, some closer to lone wolves and some, like accused Fort Hood assassin Nidal Malik Hasan, born and raised in America.

As Terrorism 2.0 unfolds, the responsibility for the rest of us to remain vigilant only increases. We need not become hysterical vigilantes, but unusual actions by a neighbor or a colleague—think long, unexplained absences or one-way plane tickets bought with cash—are worth reporting.

The Shahzad case also emphasizes whether and when a U.S. citizen striking at his country deserves to hear his Miranda rights. The Constitution obviously doesn't limit such rights to certain Americans.

The authorities investigating Shahzad showed they can read a suspect his rights and get valuable intelligence. Investigators used a public safety exception to immediately question him and determine whether he had information about other imminent threats.

Investigators learned of his alleged trips to and weapons training in Pakistan, among other details. Once satisfied, they read him his rights.

Republicans like John McCain have criticized the Obama administration on the Miranda question, but it's a hollow argument. Top intelligence directors were consulted before Shahzad heard his Miranda warning. They believed investigators had extracted important information and gave the go-ahead.

McCain is far from the only public official who spoke before thinking in the wake of the smoking SUV in Times Square. Homeland Security Director Janet Napolitano was talking about a "one-off," amateur threat before law enforcement had even nailed down Shahzad as a suspect.

Likewise, New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg's inexplicable assessment that this could have been the act of a "mentally deranged person" or someone with an agenda who "doesn't like the health care bill" said far more about him than his apparent tea party targets.

In the future, public officials should keep in mind the potential effect of their wild speculation about ongoing investigations. Better bland than blather.

Unfortunately, they are likely to have more chances to get it right in the future.

(c) 2010, The Dallas Morning News



The beginning of the end unless...

For several years we have seen a weakening of economic strength in the CNMI. One of the major reasons is that we continually prefer to let other people do our job of creating an economy. We have allowed most of our small businesses to be owned and operated by non-indigenous people. All our major businesses are dominated by outside investors. What can we call our own? What have we built with our own hands?

We refuse to understand what this means. Sad to say we prefer flocking to the government searching, even pleading, for a job. Some of us have given up and choose to stand in line at the Food Stamp Office for our monthly handout. We feel it is better to accept handouts than to work for our daily bread. Many others are fleeing the islands. Where is our shame?

What has happened to our spirit and determination to become a self-reliant nation? Unless we wake up and begin changing our attitude we will become a lost indigenous people relegated to the back pages of a history book. Is that what we want?

When I resided in Hawaii from 1974 to 1984, there were three different governors. One was of Japanese descent, another was of Philippine descent, and the third was of Hawaiian descent. Today it enjoys a governor of U.S. mainland descent. Hawaii's legislature is composed of multi-nationals. There is nothing wrong with this. They are all good leaders but they are not indigenous Hawaiians.

The native Hawaiians never thought this would happen. After all they were the indigenous people and owned the land for centuries. The vast majority were happy with their homestead lots. They were not interested in learning a skill or becoming educated. Instead they decided to let others run the hotels and businesses. As U.S. mainland citizens and other nationalities began to discover the beauty and joy of living in Hawaii, more and more of them migrated there. This further discouraged the local Hawaiian from improving his lot. Does this scenario sound like something that could happen or is happening in the CNMI today?

How many people years ago ever thought that a Catholic president would be elected? John F. Kennedy was the first. Today how many people believed that a black man would ever become president of the United States? You guess his name.

Do you think that a non-Carolinian or non-Chamorro governor and a multi-national legislature will ever be elected here? Yes. But of course they will all have to be U.S. citizens. That will not be a problem in a few more years. What do you think? Is there anything we can do to remain a major part of the changes that are inevitable in our nation?

Economists tell us there are four elements in developing a nation. They are 1. human resources (labor supply, education, discipline, motivation), 2. natural resources (land, minerals, fuels, climate), 3. capital formation (machines, factories, roads), and 4. technology (science, engineering, management, entrepreneurship). This article has space only to discuss briefly the human resources element.

I will be glad to discuss the other three in more detail with anyone at any time. Please e-mail me at tonypell@pticom.com. I feel we have enough of the other three elements to really make us an economically strong nation. However unless we, who are truly interested in developing and saving our nation from further dependence on outsiders, become aware of these four elements and begin exploring

By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is the former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.



them, we will stagnate.

My main concern is *human resources*. Human resources are defined as the stock of technical knowledge and skill embodied in a nation's work force, resulting from formal education and on-the-job-training. Unless we have an educated and skilled work force, the other three elements will not be put into action. They will remain the domain of outsiders.

Too often we hear that we don't have enough local labor pool to run our businesses. No one has shown any facts of figures to prove this myth. If it were true, why are there over 7,000 people on welfare. Assume that 50 percent are capable of working if they had the skills and education. That amounts to about 3,500 potential workers. We also have local workers and high school graduates yearly who are under-trained.

If given the opportunity and motivation, they could develop into financial leaders, managers, and business owners. Our people possess outstanding abilities but have never been motivated to develop them. Now is the time!

What we fail to understand is that in 2007, the CNMI had a population of about 69,000 people. *Fifty-four percent of that number were non-U.S. citizens.* The remaining 46 percent were U. S. citizens consisting of you and me. But *56 percent nonresidents!* Think of it. When do we lose complete control on everything we treasure? We have already lost the economic battle. When do we do lose the political stage? The handwriting is on the wall.

Let's call upon all our leaders to come together and discuss this problem before we lose our identity. Let's stop being a reactive nation and be a proactive one. Let's anticipate problems and make plans to solve them. Let's stop biting the hand that has been feeding us for over 35 years. What have we done to repay any of their support? True, I agree with you that the U.S. could have done a better job of overseeing us and training us. But the major responsibility still lies with us for our destiny.

Why are we pleading to keep our nonresident workers while doing nothing to train our local residents? What have we done over the past years train our locals? Is it that we are so hooked on a minimum wage for nonresident workers that we are willing to sacrifice our own people? Yet don't we pay our unskilled government workers much more than that? Now there is a clamor in the government to raise government workers salaries. Where is the reasoning? *We must develop our private sector work force!* This nonsense must stop or we are doomed to oblivion.

The U.S. government is knocking hard on our door and insist-
See BEGINNING on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The Great Mall of China

There are two things Texas and China have in common. They like to do things in huge scales. The hats sold by the Great Wall, the rice terraces in Yunnan, and the karst valleys and rivers of Guangxi are all Texas-size, with some even branded with the Marlboro logo, and boots made-out-for-walking-over-you; orders for Chinese-to-go in Dallas, Houston, and San Antonio are conducted in Chinglish, chop-chop!

On everything else, Texas retreats to the Alamo; China quietly out space-races Houston but recedes to gather bamboos for its pandas! Big D does not mince words on how it does things; the Dallas Cowboys roughly lives up to its reputation as America's Team. Beijing has become the epitome of urban growth, with just one circumferential road and Metro-less 20 years ago, to being now a maze of warrens of state-of-the-art rails, and a 7th city road ring beyond the Olympic village.

China showed itself to the world in the Beijing Olympics; it was a resplendent performance. Nowhere has showmanship excelled to the max as in the country that is preoccupied with "face." The face that came through, in spite of attempts to subvert/dramatize its human rights' record with the reality of Tibet, or the alleged corruption surrounding the school disasters in the Sichuan quakes, Beijing's deft orchestration of the human factor of the Games came through with a touch of acceptable and accommodating humanness, even from the relatively cautious media of the North American continent.

This year, the Shanghai 2010 World Expo is an invitation for the rest of the world to come and show itself, not just to the world but most importantly, to the Chinese. Close to 200 political states responded, and many organizations and corporations have lined up to exhibit their manifest declaration of what the future looks like in some places and going to look like in others who have the yen to learn. In the next six months, 70 million folks are expected to show up to imbibe in the welcoming and generously flowing ambience of the future-is-here stance. The Expo focuses on the world's possibilities rather than its problems, the difference perhaps largely a question of semantics, but nevertheless critical in defining the qual-

ity of the spirit involved. The invitation is that, for the future to be, "you be it!"

Nowhere has many minds so brilliantly focused itself on humanity's possibilities with architectural innovations and the practical display of what is already here, rather than whine about the disasters of impending doom and the catastrophes that awaits the heretofore seemingly emasculated human will, than in this celebrated event on both sides of the Huangpu in good old Shanghai. And what a better place to launch a celebration! Shanghai's current low carbon footprint is remarkable compared to what it was 20 years ago.

Now, the "Mall" in our title is not a misprint. Yes, we normally gush over the wonder of the ancient Great Wall of China when talking about this part of the Asian continent. In this case, we refer to the Great Mall that is China.

Mall as where one buys and sells goods and commodities; China has excelled in the last 20 years in being one. We recall Japan post-WWII when "Made in Japan," at least, in the Philippines, meant "poor quality." That did not last long. With the material requirements of the Korean and Vietnam conflicts and the expansion of the U.S. military presence in the Pacific, the former enemy suddenly emerged as a reliable ally, at least, in the production end.

What Japan could not accomplish militarily, it did in the field of international trade, industry, and commerce. Suddenly, it was buying natural resources that it did not have from other countries, producing quality products for export until it was expeditious to export the whole production process itself to where there were cheaper labor. The little industrial tigers of Korea, Taiwan, and Singapore followed, while Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand and the Philippines joined in the roundtable. Then rose China. Deng Xiaoping in 1989 essentially said, "Let's open the Great Wall to the World."

China has been the world's intentionally exploited labor since but with a difference. Distributive justice through massive infrastructure projects and social programs are hand-in-hand with economic policies, and what Napoleon cautioned about awakening a sleeping giant became a reality.

By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section

While the world scrimps under the weight of a global recession that saw Wall Streets bailed out at the expense of Main Street, China in the last quarter saw more than 50 percent domestic expenditure from downtown's *Changan Jie*, causing policy makers to douse the overheated housing and construction markets to avoid an economic bubble explosion.

Buy-and-sell is now at the heart of the Chinese culture, and there lies its strength and Achilles heel (for later reflection). Shopping is the nation's preoccupation with every city center with an underground Mall, though sadly aping the colonial mentality that what is produced and marketed from Paris, London, Milan, Frankfurt, and New York is superior to those emanating from the industrial muscles of *Dong Bei*, the *Pearl River Basin*, and the *Yangtze River Plains*.

Yet, the current national response to the earthquake in Yushu is an example of a nation cooperatively and collaboratively getting its component parts acting toward the same direction. To be sure, the heavy hand of central coercive pressure often shows, but the structures of belonging critical in communal administration are also in place. Consider the imaginal education provided citizens by the commonality of street names in all the major cities around the country? There is a common identity in place that makes *Taibashan* in *Dong Bei* familiar to Hainan as Xizang is to Yanbian in the old *Kogoryo*. The Great Mall of China is on display in Shanghai this next six months—the City and its People. See it before the Yuan's value goes up!

Areglamientun Linahyan

Sige hit man-liliku gi oriyen tumobit ta aliligau i yabi pot para ta

fañgarera. Ni unu lumilie' ennau na yabi lau gaige ha' gi sagaña. Kulan i fagas pachotta i didog na maribahan fondu gi kahan publiku. Sige ha' de ta talun muñgañgas, kulan guaka gi pastahe, dispues de minachom atdau. Memegaiña sumasañgan i taya' fondu kulan mohon nuebu na infotmasyon. Gi mismu saku-dida, taya rekomendasyon ha' taimanu para ta adelanta rinikohen kontribusion tax para ta kubri nesessidatta.

Gi uttimon haane, siempre u klaru hinassota hafa na bira birada man-lotgun hit guine talu gi mismu hoyu. Man-tinane' hit otu siha asuntu dimas de tapan dañu para ta tamtam hafa difektoña i presente siha na areglamientu. Ta letke i asuntu, ta ridonduye talu i kareta, mientras ta e'eñgulu' kau magahet na gaige i yabi gi sagaña. 'Nai ta konfitma na huñgan, ta bira iluta kadu' tita lie'. Buente nuebu este na modun mafotman planu gi asuntun linahyan siha.

Estague' masusede pot asuntun migrasyon 'nai ta suhun gi un' banda responsabilidadta umaregla todun asuntu pot hutnaleros guine. Ha gacha hit induktu ya entre kotte yan sinetsut na eskalera 'nai ta tutuhon talu man-liliku.

Buente ti man-siña hit gi seriosu na chochu' linahyan ayu na ta leletke i yabi lau gaige ha' gi sagaña. Sali hit ha' de kutbatan Sears Roebuck yan JCPenny lau ti tana' bali hafa na man-gaige hit gi siyan publiku parehu ha' ma-apunta 'sino ma-elihe. De dios miho!

In' hassu un' finu un' estudiante pot man-antigosu siha na areglu ni tana' sesetbe esta pagu lau hagas dañkulu na tinilaika gi seriosu na asuntun linahyan?

Namamahlau sa' famosu tanota pot ti man-fitme siha na areglamientu. Gigon guaha diskonbiñienteta mediu karera papa' gi halom sadog, ta tulaika i primet areglu siha maseha mauleg hafa ta pega para todus. Hafañagu este ti fitme na pisu piot 'nai tafana kometsiante siha ginen hiyoñg. Hita mismu sumede este na mañan areglu 'nai ta fatta publikamiente na ti man-toa' hit gi fitme siha na areglamientu linahyan.

Mauleg ta talun bumisita este na asuntu pot satbasionta mismu. Mas u anchu benefisiota gigun man-siña hit gi inapruueban man-toa' 'sino

antau siha na areglu. Mientras man-tinitihuñg ni sensian tramposu, man-namase famaguonta sa' ti ta prepara fitme i pisun futuron niha.

Pestín Brok (Broke)

Lamegai na nasyon gi enteru elmundu pumadedese pestin taya salape gi kahan niha. Este na debate oppan lokue giya Washington 'nai anog na memegaiña para gastun federat gi sigiente dies años ke hafa para u rikoke. Yangin pagu na tiempu hana' hahalom tres pesos, para mona i gastaña siñko pesos 'sino dos pesos mas ke hafa ha rikokohe.

Taiguine lokue masusede guine 'nai mas dañkulu i gastun operasyon gobiernu ke hafa humahalom gi kaha. Lau deste dies años malofan ha tutuhongue este na problema. Talie' na mamamaila ya gi todun manma-elihe unu ha' mumensiona priniponen satbasion. Los dimas, todun man-lolosus mañgontentu kulan taya agupa.

I satbasion este na problema makat esta tana setbe hagas ramientata sa' ti apmam man-asoda hit talu gi mismu hoyu 'nai ta diskute parehu asuntu sin satbasion. Ya gi kada biahe na ta repite linache gi disision asuntun linahyan siha, manalu hit tatte gi mismu problema 'nai taya nuebu solu i haane 'nai man-asoda hit.

Este na diskuidu humanau guato gi publiku 'nai tana' makat haanen niha. Este na asuntu fuetsau debi tana' setbe sensian kabayeru 'nai ta pega huegon politika gi un' banda pot para ta satba i promesan manma-elihe para u adelanta haanen i tautau ni marepresenta gi todun atmos bandan chalan gi Deni. I haanen mas mauleg na linala gaige gi patman kanai miyu.

Pot Ositan

Malagu un' sindalu pot no umana' hanau para Afghanistan. Sige malagu ya 'nai hihot i polisian militat, ha lie un' madre gi kantun chalan. 'Nai ni mona ni tatte, ha sada' i prohima ya umatog gi halom chininan sistet.

Dispues de man-hanau i MP, sinañgane as madre na esta safugue ya siña humuyung. Man-ae' agradezimientu dispues ilegña: "Ai sistet, tatnai hulie' bonitan petna taimanu i petnamu". Ineppe as sistet: "Ai ya lumattilu hau, siempre un' soda dos ugam pugua ni ti man-malagu lokue mana fan hanau para Afghanistan!" A' Saina!

sound like an alarmist? Yes, I am because I care! Don't you?

The time has come to set a course of direction and go for it. There can be no excuses. Start training and educating our local labor force and dam the minimum wage. Which is worse—paying better wages or losing it all?

Change is in the air and we must become a part of it. Consider the alternative. The demise of two proud cultures—the Carolinian and the Chamorro—has already started. Let's stop it.

Letter to the Editor

Follow Arizona's example

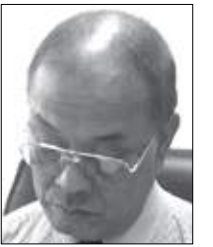
In response to the article "AZ immigration law subjects Chamorros to racial profiling," I too, as a white male, have been subjected to Arizona's racial profiling. This Western Union law, which has been on the books for over two years, now requires all individuals who send more than \$200 in or out of Arizona to show a legal ID. This is to prevent money laundering. Arizona is one of the highest drug producing and trafficking states in the nation. I felt so discriminated that I had to show my U.S. driver's license (which was photocopied and held in a file by Western Union), on Saipan, when I sent money to Arizona for my daughters before Christmas. As a white male and a veteran of the U.S. Air Force, I am appalled that I need to show an ID to send money. Why do I pay taxes? Yes, I've been to Flagstaff, in the mountains, near Utah, next to the Grand Canyon. It was so close to the Mexican border that it took me nearly five hours to drive to Scottsdale. Which, of course, is another 100 miles to the Mexican border. Making it nearly 400 miles to the border.

I think that the CNMI should take Arizona's lead in forcing out illegal immigrants. If the CNMI were to check IDs when people send money out of the CNMI, we could eliminate much illegal immigration on this island and bring back much business and jobs for Chamorros.

Arizona has it right on this one. There is much crime, drug trafficking and Phoenix is the number two city in the world for kidnappings and human trafficking. The CNMI needs to follow Arizona's suit. It will be the start of a beautiful relationship.

Keith Brooks

Dandan, Saipan



By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John S. DelRosario is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section

BEGINNING






From Page 10

ing we give some type of residency to our foreign workers. What that will be remains to be seen. But whatever is finally decided will only add to the complication of our situation. We must act now. We still have time to control our destiny, but it is fast diminishing. Do I

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲86 ▼79
Palau	Partly Sunny	▲90 ▼75
Yap	Mostly Sunny	▲88 ▼77
Chuuk	Mostly Sunny	▲89 ▼77
Pohnpei	Partly Sunny	▲83 ▼75
Kosrae	Showers	▲86 ▼78
Majuro	Cloudy	▲86 ▼79

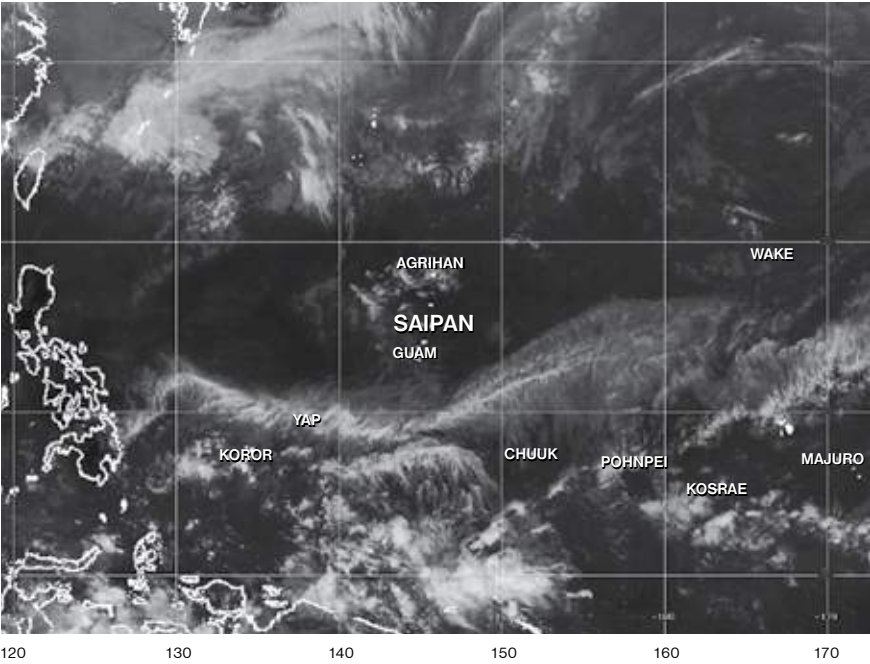
Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲66 ▼58
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲71 ▼51
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲77 ▼66
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲82 ▼72
London	Partly Cloudy	▲57 ▼43
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲65 ▼52
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲95 ▼79
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲69 ▼56
Miami	Sunny	▲88 ▼75
New York	Windy	▲62 ▼45
Osaka	Showers	▲63 ▼58
Paris	Showers	▲62 ▼47
Pusan	Showers	▲65 ▼52
Rome	Showers	▲71 ▼58
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲66 ▼45
San Francisco	Showers	▲53 ▼50
Seoul	Showers	▲65 ▼48
Tokyo	Showers	▲65 ▼60
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲67 ▼47

Tides

Saipan Harbor				
4:44 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet	
11:37 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet	
5:47 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet	
11:25 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.8 Feet	

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, MAY 9, 2010
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Convergent southwest winds are causing cloudiness and patchy rain north of the northernmost CNMI or north of a line from 24N130E to 22N139E to 25N152E. A small trade-wind disturbance is generating scattered showers just west of Koror Palau between 6N and 9N from 130E to 134E. Trade-wind convergence is causing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms southeast of Yap and well south of Chuuk along the equator or south of a line from 5N139E to 1N154E. Similar weather is also occurring south of Pohnpei and Kosrae but over Tarawa within 125 miles of a line from 4n159e to 2n175e to 4n180.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:50 AM	6:37 PM
Tuesday	5:50 AM	6:37 PM
Wednesday	5:49 AM	6:37 PM
Thursday	5:49 AM	6:38 PM
Friday	5:49 AM	6:38 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	2:47 AM	3:18 PM
Tuesday	3:24 AM	4:08 PM
Wednesday	4:03 AM	5:00 PM
Thursday	4:45 AM	5:55 PM
Friday	5:33 AM	6:53 PM

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- PICTURES**
 - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
 - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
 - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
 - COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

- For pictures:**
- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.
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 - Fax: (670) 235-3740
 - Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
 - Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 7, 2010											
DEPARTURES						ARRIVALS					
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM						GUAM-ROTA (ROP)					
C09597	5:00am	5:30am	1, 5			C09598	6:30pm	7:00pm	4, 7		
SAIPAN-GUAM						GUAM-SAIPAN					
C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily			C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily		
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily			C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily		
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7			C09600	10:05am	10:55am	Daily		
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	Daily			C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7		
C09605	6:35pm	7:25pm	Daily			C09604	5:10pm	6:00pm	Daily		
C09599	9:35pm	10:25pm	Daily			C09606	8:10pm	9:00pm	Daily		
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)						NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN					
DL287	5:55am	8:35am	Daily			DL290	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily		
DL297	3:35pm	6:15pm	Daily			DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily		
DL289	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily			DL288	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily		
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)						BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN					
OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5			OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7		
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)						SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN					
OZ604	2:20am	6:10am	1			OZ605	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7		
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7			OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7		
OZ606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7			OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6		
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)						SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN					
FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6			FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5		
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)						GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN					
CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6			CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5		
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)						MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN					
OZ604/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN			OZ704/605	12:10am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7		
OZ604/701	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN						via ICN		
OZ606/703	2:20am	11:00pm	1 via ICN			OZ706/607	3:35am	2:20am+1	4, 7 via PUS		
OZ606/703	2:50am	11:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN			C0890/9606	10:55am	9:00pm	6 via GUM		
OZ608/705	3:20am	12:10am+1	1, 5 via PUS			OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN		
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	6 via GUM			OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN		
C09603/893	3:05pm	9:10pm	3, 5 via GUM-Palau			PR110/C09596	10:00pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM		
C09603/933	3:05pm	8:40pm	Daily via GUM			C0892/9596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	3,5 via GUM-Palau		
						C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM		
SAIPAN-HONG KONG						HONG KONG-SAIPAN					
OZ604/721	2:20am	11:45am	1 via ICN			OZ724/605	12:30am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7		
OZ604/721	2:50am	11:45am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN						via ICN		
OZ606/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	4, 6, 7 via ICN			OZ750/605	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7		
C09603/909	3:05am	9:30pm	1, 5 via GUM						via ICN		
						OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN		
						OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN		
						C0910/9596	10:35pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM		
Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)											

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily	FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily	FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily	FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily	Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
Guam-Rota				FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily	FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily	FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily	FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily	FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily	FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily	FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily	FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily	FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily				
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily				



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

O P I N I O N

Letters to the Editor

DOI's flawed recommendations

First, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands by virtue of the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008 is governed by federal immigration laws and any change in the status of foreign workers or other aliens in the Commonwealth should be proposed only as part of, and consistent with, changes in the immigration laws that apply to the status of foreign workers or other aliens uniformly throughout the United States. Any recommendation with respect to any other status is fundamentally flawed and the Commonwealth should not support any such recommendation.

Second, the report of the Department of the Interior fails to acknowledge the need to increase the employment of U.S. citizens in the Commonwealth and its recommendation for wholesale changes in the immigration status of foreign workers, whose entry permits were for temporary employment, not permanent immigration, would have the affect of entrenching these foreign workers in the Commonwealth economy and thereby seriously limiting or eliminating the employment opportunities for U.S. citizens and U.S. permanent residents. The Commonwealth should not support any recommendation that limits employment opportunities of its citizens.

Third, the Department of the Interior has consistently refused to produce, in response to repeated requests from Commonwealth

representatives, the underlying data on aliens present in the Commonwealth on which the report is based. Only summary data has been disclosed which protects the data from any serious analysis for fraud. The Department also failed to disclose that the collection of this data was not done by federal officials or even by U.S. citizens; aliens did much of the registration data collection work. The Department should provide promptly all of the underlying registration data that was provided by individual aliens so that it can be compared with other available data to detect fraudulent reporting and to produce a more reliable basis for considering the conclusions and recommendations contained in the Report.

Fourth, the report of the Department of the Interior substantially understates the number of illegal aliens in the Commonwealth and ignores published information, including specific names, with respect to more than 1,000 illegal aliens. This has the intended result of distracting attention from the serious problem of increases in the number of illegal aliens in the Commonwealth since the federalization effort began. No recommendation for any increased status should apply to any unemployed alien other than immediate relatives of legally employed aliens or to any illegal alien.

Fifth, the report of the Department of the Interior failed to utilize the data and economic analysis

contained in the 2008 economic study by professional and experienced economic forecasters Richard Conway and Malcolm McPhee, which the Department itself funded. The report wrongly concludes, based on fragmentary and insufficient data and without a professionally acceptable analytical methodology, that the Commonwealth's economy will improve in the near future and require more foreign workers. No recommendation that lacks a professional economic analysis performed by a named economist according to accepted professional standards should be supported by the Commonwealth.

Sixth, the governor of the Commonwealth shall propose legislation for consideration by the Legislature aimed at removing any economic or other incentives that may motivate illegal aliens to remain in the Commonwealth.

Seventh, the governor of the Commonwealth shall transmit promptly to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Interior and to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security a copy of this Resolution together with the governor's recommendations with respect to the measures needed to be taken by federal agencies to support the increased employment of U.S. citizens and permanent residents in the Commonwealth and to remove illegal aliens from the Commonwealth.

Gregorio Cruz
President, Taotao Tano CNMI Inc.

Listening skills

Communication skills are one of the primary objectives in the curriculum of public schools and we know student must master these skills to be successful in life. Strangely enough, listening and writing skills are often second only to reading as the biggest challenge for teachers. I'm bringing this up because it is apparent that the listening skills of some pro-Article XII people are extremely poor. If you can't listen, then you can't be open-minded and objective. Taking a subjective stance on Article XII is a faulty approach to such a controversial issue. It is clearly obvious to me that people on both sides of Article XII need to work on their listening skills but the pro side is clearly the worse.

I have studied the CNMI since the days I met my wife and I continue to study because this is my home. In my stud-

ies I discovered a wall of social imperialism promoted by many locals—thank God it's not the majority because there are many good and great local people on these islands—but this wall of imperialism is blocking the rights, the voices and the concerns of fellow citizens who are not locals. It is common knowledge that some locals in government refuse to listen to outsiders and don't want outsiders to tell the locals anything or even voice their opinions. But remember, the feds tried to tell the CNMI for over a decade and look what happened—federalization. The feds warned CNMI negotiators about land alienation and it seems some pro-Article XII people refuse to listen and are dead set on making the same mistake again. It's sad that some locals just refuse to

respect the voice and advice of outsiders simply because they are not local.

The inability to listen combined with a poor acceptance level of some pro-Article XII people is going to continue to contribute to our inability to fix our economy, to fix Article XII, and to even select the best people for government. I say this because it is very clear some of the better candidates didn't win in the past election, which is why so many people are now regretting who they voted for.

The sooner we can get Article XII under an intellectual microscope and do the work to get rid of the bacteria within the law, the sooner will we come up with the *necessary and proper* solution.

Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman, Saipan

A few cents here, another cent there

Here's a suggestion that would help to prolong the life of the Retirement Fund, if not save it altogether: Have the Retirement Fund deduct an additional 3 percent for retirement out of our government paychecks each pay period. That's only three additional pennies per dollar. At the same time,

cut all present retirement checks by 2 percent. Again, that's only two cents per dollar. Few of our Retirement Fund members, whether still working or retired, would even miss the few cents.

Yes, I know, it's the government's fault that we are in this fix, but, we, the members of

the Fund, are stuck with the results. Given a choice between giving up an addition few cents per dollar of income now, and getting nothing later, what sensible person would object?

Ron Mandell
Gualo Rai, Saipan

L O C A L

Cancer Registry, Medical Consent Acts OK'd

During the Senate session held on May 5, 2010, all nine members of the CNMI Senate voted to approve the Cancer Registry Act (Senate Bill 17-10, SS1) and the Medical Consent Act (Senate Bill 17-11, SS1).

The Cancer Registry Act proposes to establish a population-based cancer registry for the CNMI, and the Medical Consent Act proposes to recognize the right of adult persons to make decisions regarding the rendering of their own healthcare, including end-of-life de-

cisions to accept or refuse care in the event of terminal or permanent unconscious condition.

Both bills were introduced by Sen. Ralph Torres, who chairs the Senate Health & Welfare Committee. Torres had authored similar versions of the bills in his previous term as member of the 16th House of Representatives, and had conducted public hearings on the bills as chair of the House Committee on Health, Welfare, and Education.

Last month the Senate Committee issued a call for pub-

lic comments on the bills; the Commonwealth Cancer Association and other members of the community submitted comments on both.

The bills now head to the House of Representatives for approval.

To submit comments on the bills to the House Health & Welfare Committee, contact Rep. Sylvestre Iguel, chairman of the Health & Welfare Committee at rep.iguels@cnmileg.gov.mp, staff.rep.iguel@cnmileg.gov.mp, or 664-8983. (PR)

Navy breaks ground on solar project



U.S. NAVY PHOTO BY JESSE LEON GUERRERO
Capt. Scott Galbreath, second from left, commanding officer of U.S. Naval Base Guam, and Capt. Peter Lynch, third from left, commanding officer of U.S. Naval Facilities Engineering Command Marianas, leads the ceremonial groundbreaking for a solar photovoltaic system at NBG May 4. From left, Ralph Focht, director of Johnson Controls Government Systems, LLC; Galbreath; Lynch; Cmdr. Mike Thornton, public works officer for NBG; and Kevin Evans, energy manager for Joint Region Marianas.

SANTA RITA, Guam—The U.S. Naval Facilities Engineering Command Marianas hosted a groundbreaking ceremony May 4 to mark the start of a solar photovoltaic electricity generating system on U.S. Naval Base Guam.

This energy conservation measure will install a 250 kilowatt photovoltaic electricity generating system consisting of solar cells that convert sunlight directly into electricity.

"This is really about a commitment by the United States Navy to reduce our dependence on foreign oil," said Capt. Peter Lynch, commanding officer for NAVFAC Marianas. "It is a strategic imperative that we reduce that demand from foreign oil products, and that asset that

is renewable is something that we want to take advantage of."

This \$5.9 million solar photovoltaic project represents one of three components in the Navy's \$34.1 million initiative to reduce energy consumption on Guam through its Energy Savings Performance Contract awarded April 2009 to Johnson Controls Government Systems, LLC. The other two conservation components include installation of heating, ventilation and air conditioning controls optimization, and energy-efficient lighting upgrades in buildings throughout the base.

"All three ECM components will help the Navy on Guam meet the federal government renewable energy goal to im-

plement 25 percent renewable energy initiatives by the year 2025," said Kevin Evans, energy manager for Joint Region Marianas. "By incorporating the proposed measures, we will reduce electrical energy consumption by approximately 6.4 megawatt hours a year, which contributes to achieving the Navy's energy savings goal and mission to reduce consumption and carbon emissions."

When completed, the solar photovoltaic system with other energy conservation measures will save approximately \$1.7 million annually in energy costs.

The expected completion date for the solar photovoltaic project is September 2010. (USN)

Guam student named to USMMA Prep School Program

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo on Wednesday announced that Dan Allen D. Saldana has been appointed to the United States Merchant Marine Academy preparatory program and will enroll in the 10-month program starting in July of this year. Saldana has been appointed by USMMA to the prep school program at the New Mexico Military Institute

in Roswell, New Mexico.

Dan Allen is a 2008 graduate of John F. Kennedy High School and will be eligible to enroll in the Class of 2015 at the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy upon completion of preparatory school. Dan Allen is the son of Danilo and Ofelia Saldana from Tamuning and played varsity rugby and football for John F. Kennedy High School.

"I congratulate Dan Allen

for his appointment by the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy to their prep school program," Bordallo said. "Dan Allen will be offered an appointment to the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy next year upon completion of the prep school requirements. He has a bright future ahead and I am confident he will be well-prepared for success at the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy." (PR)

Mother's Day Special

The different faces of Mom

The following Mother's Day essays were submitted as part of an assignment for 10th Grade English under the class of Mrs. Lupe Borja-Robinson at the Marianas High School.

My special grandma

By ANTHONY BASA

My grandma, Ignacia Pangelinian Cruz, is a special person. Besides myself, she takes care of six of my younger cousins. My older sister, cousins, and I live with my grandma and grandpa in Chalan Kanoa.

My grandma is hardworking. She cooks breakfast for her seven young grandchildren every morning. On weekends she cooks three meals for us: breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Afterwards, my cousins and I help her wash the dishes and clean the tables. On school days, she gets up really early to cook breakfast for all of us. She also finishes any housework chores that need to be finished. Then she gets ready to go to work.

My grandma has been taking care of my sister, cousins, and me since we were little. She helps us with our school work too. She and my grandpa take good care of us. They're the greatest.

Unique in so many ways

By EMINA KAIPAT

Is your mother special? Mine is, and her name is Ebenida. She is the reason that I try my best in all that I do. She likes telling us stories of her childhood back in Kosrae. She grew up enjoying swimming in the river. She and her friends would always go to the river and swim on the weekends. She enjoys eating local dishes, especially fish. Whether you fry it, make it into soup, or sashimi it, fish is her favorite dish!

My mom is a quiet, mellow, and soft-hearted person. If you meet her for the first time, your first impression would be that she's a very shy person and she is. However, when you speak to her, she'll start talking with you. What I am so grateful about my mom is that she doesn't drink alcohol, chew betel-nut, smoke, or do anything that's bad. I believe this shows how much she loves my siblings and me.

There are a lot of things that I admire about my mom. The way she laughs just makes everyone else want to laugh. She can tell silly jokes, and do her funky dance. No matter how wacky my mom could be, I still love her for who she is. She doesn't need to fake anything: she is just herself. Although my siblings and I make her angry at times, she still manages to let it slip out of her mind and make us laugh instead. She doesn't hold grudges against anyone.

My mom is a very intelligent person, and she is very spiritual. She is very active in our church; she is a Sunday school teacher. During her spare time, she likes to read the Bible, and sing church songs.

When my father died about six years ago, my mom had a hard time coping with his sudden death. We all felt like we couldn't survive in this world without my father, because he was the only one working. Her strong religious faith helped her get through that difficult period.

My mom is the best and I love her with all my heart and soul. She gives me advice, knowledge, and encouragement to help me succeed as a person. I truly thank her for everything she has done for me, and for her unconditional love.

To all teenagers out there: do not do anything that will hurt your mother physically, mentally, or emotionally. Because once she's gone, you will feel so heartbroken that you'll regret whatever you did for the rest of your life. Like the Ten Commandments state, "Honor thy father and thy mother."



My unique mom

By JOLYN ANN PANGELINAN

What is your mom like? Well, my mom is very loving, fun to be with, and definitely hardworking. My mom and I have this bond like sisters.

My mom surely loves me. She gives me so many things. But I love my mom, for who she is, not the things she gives. She thinks about my siblings and I all the time. My mom truly is hardworking. Not just my mom but my dad as well. They work hard to make sure we have food and shelter. My mom makes sure everything's organized and clean around the house. I try my best to help her especially at home.

My mom is just like a big sister to me. She dresses cool and she's very beautiful. She is always here for me especially through hard times. My mom is unique in every way. I am very lucky to have her. She's young, loving, caring, kind, beautiful, and understanding like no other mom out there. I'm glad to have her. Evelyn Pangelinan is the best mom I could ever have! I love you mom!

My technological mom

By KARL KENNETH MELCHOR

My mom is very skilled in computer technology. She works with computers at her job. She recently bought a new laptop for herself. It makes our desktop computer at home look ancient. Although her computer skills are great, I help her out on the computer every once in a while.

My mom's name is Marilou Abueg. Besides her fulltime job, she takes care of my two siblings, my dad, and me. She does most of the cooking at home.

My mom works at an office in Lower Base. She works six days a week, and overtime at the end of each month. I believe she works very diligently at her job. Thanks to my mom's example, my brother, sister and I also work very diligently in school.

Determination is my mom's middle name

By GEORGE RACE

My mom, Salve', first came to Saipan from the Philippines to be a hotel contract worker. She later met and married my father, Gregorio Mendiola, a local Chamorro, and they had two girls, Gresil and Paila. I was the last born, and basically spoiled by my mother and sisters. I got a lot of attention, mostly good.

In addition to being a nurturing mom, my mom's other strength is a determination to be successful. "Failure, wavering, or giving up" were not words in her vocabulary. She worked her way up to be the night supervisor at a major hotel. About the same time, my parents decided to get a fairly amicable divorce. My father died shortly thereafter.

My mom had already a college diploma from the Philippines, but her credits could not be transferred to the Northern Marianas College because of a time limit. She always had a desire to be a registered nurse. She perceived nursing to be a professional, honorable occupation in which she could help people. A nurse also made a bigger salary so that she could afford to send us children to college.

Thus began a thrifty savings program for her college tuition. She passed all the entrance requirements for the NMC Nursing Program, and she began a rigorous three-year program. At the same time, she fulfilled all the needs of her three school-age children and worked at the hotel. She had very little time for a social life and for relaxation.

In one of those breaks in time, she met and married my new adopted dad. He fit right into the family, and soon everyone was supporting my mom with her job and college requirements. We pitched in whenever we could with the daily chores and also doing some cooking and laundry. Study was very important in her nursing program, so we tried to be quiet. Sometimes my dad would take us to exercise or go for a meal, so mom wouldn't be interrupted. This went on for almost three years. My mom never lost sight of her goal, and stayed determined and focused. I have some problems in speaking and writing English, which is my first language, while my mom had to study very technical subjects such as chemistry and microbiology in her second language. I admired her for that, especially after looking at some of her complicated textbooks.

During finals week at NMC just before graduation, she was totally focused and determined. Sometimes she would study until midnight, and then get up again at 4am, and start all over again. Well, her dedication paid off and she graduated honorably with her 22 classmates and future nurses. She then took a well-deserved rest for a month.

Now my mom is studying for what the nurses call the "national boards," which are a tough series of tests about the various aspects of nursing. She will take the tests in July, and she has already set out a study program. She is back to making us healthy breakfasts and other nutritional dishes. Nurses know what's good for you and the meals are great.

I have no doubt about the outcome of her tests. It will just be another opportunity for my mom to prove "determination" is her middle name. That's my mom!

My loving great aunt

By ICEMWAR SOMORANG

My loving great aunt, Margarita Igisaia, is very unique. She raised me when I was little. She taught me respect and how to be a good person. She always knows what to say when I cry.

She always told my brothers, sister, and me about her childhood. She can tell jokes that make us all laugh. She's the best aunt in the whole universe. Besides being a very nice person, she is also very caring. When I was very sick, she came to check on me and take care of me. My great aunt is like a nurse. She can take care of anyone who is sick.

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My mom

By JIRO TAKAI

My mom's name is Vivian Q. Sablan. She married my dad, then she divorced him when I was 13 years old. So when my parents divorced, we all split up. My sister and brother followed my dad, and I followed my mom.

My mom and I moved to Guam. We stayed in Guam with my grandma. My mom and I stayed with my grandma for three months. After three months, we got our own house.

On Guam it was hard for my mom to get around, because she didn't have a car to go to work. So every morning my grandma picked her up. My mom also had to support me, like buying me clothes and supplies for school. She was the only one working so things were hard.

After one year, my mom found a boyfriend. My mom's boyfriend made things easier for her, because he worked. I liked my mom's boyfriend, because he supported me and brought me to his workplace.

I liked his job, because I got to drive a boat, a jet ski, and a kayak. My mom's boyfriend makes her happy, because he gets along with me. As long as my mom is happy, I'm happy. Everything is going well in our lives now.

My awesome mom

By JO MENDIOLA

There's only one mom in the world for me, and her name is Maria Lourdes Faustino Mendiola. She's a single mom, and she works very hard to support my sister and me. I'm glad that she's my mom. I wouldn't change it for the whole world.

My mom works two jobs, and I admire her for being strong each single day. She faces new problems every day. What I love about her the most is that even though she's a single mom, she works very hard for my sister and me.

My mom's daytime job is cleaning the two buildings at the Bank of Hawaii plaza in Puerto Rico. On the weekends, her boss picks her up to clean her (boss') house. So you see, she doesn't really have time for herself and for my sister and me. My mom works hard so she can give my sister and me a better future. I want to help my mom, but I just don't know how to do it.

No matter what happens, no matter what she does, she'll always be the number one mom for my sister and me. Whenever she's tired from work, I try to make her feel better until she falls asleep. I will love my mom until the end of time. I couldn't be any happier that she's my mom.

Super mom

By MARTINA LANGU

Whom do you consider to be the strongest influence in your life? Well, I'd say it's my mom. My mom is strong both inside and out. No one in the world can give me the unconditional love that my mom gives my siblings and me. My mom has a real big heart. She takes care of me and helps me in every way she could.

Despite all the struggles and pain she has faced, she still manages to stand strong. She is the strongest person that I know. Until this day, I still can't find a way to thank my mother for all of the things she has done for me. Sure, there are times when I have messed up and done wrong, but my mother always forgives me. She forgives me for every single thing that I've done wrong. My mom is a super mom, and I am so thankful that I have her in my life.

My wonderful mom

By MAJOUR JACOB

Do you have a wonderful mom? Well, I'm lucky to have one. She is a very protective and caring mother. My mom's name is Delia Papa Jacob. My mother came from the Philippines.

My mom is the best. She buys me anything I want, but only if I really need it. She gives me money for school everyday. My mom lets me out anytime, but even though I don't listen to her she still cares.

She does a lot of work in the house. She works everyday at Pacific Islands Club except Fridays. Often my siblings and I swim at PIC for free.

My mom can be overprotective sometimes, but she is only doing that because she cares. My mom cares a lot for us. When we have visitors in our house, like my friends, my mom makes delicious snacks.

She may make me mad sometimes, but I love her and I am glad to have a mother like her. I love her very much and also to my father and to the whole family.

My special island mother

By LEILA KAPILEO

Mothers are special in every way. My mother, Ramona, is a special single mom. She is raising my two siblings and me, and she never complains about the challenges of raising her children by herself.

My mother works very hard for my siblings and me. She makes sure that we all go to school each day so that we will graduate. She wants us to have a better life than she had. My mom is also my best friend; she is like my promise sister. No one can ever replace my mother!

Some people say that without a father, a person would not be here. Well, that is true, but a mother is the one who carries her baby in her tummy for nine months. She deals with the pain of birth. She also is the one who wakes up and feeds the baby in the middle of the night. Every day I thank the Lord for taking his time to create my special mother. Without my mom, my siblings and I would probably not be where we are today.

One-of-a-kind mom

By LUCILLE GONZALES

As a young girl, my mother told me a story. She never stopped telling me the story until I fully understood it. It's a story about her teenage years and how hard it was for her to get through it. The reason why she told me the story was because she doesn't want me to go through the same thing and suffer like how she did.

When my mother was a sophomore, she got pregnant. That's my oldest sister Remy. Before my mother found out she was pregnant, she got into an accident. Luckily, nothing happened to the baby. The doctor found out that my mom was pregnant and told her to tell my grandma before he does. She didn't want to tell my grandma, so the doctor did. Yes, like any other mother, she cried. It was difficult for my grandma to accept, but it was too late. There was nothing she could do about it.

My grandma never sat my mom down and talked to her about sex and pregnancy so she had no clue how it would feel or how bad it'll affect her. She was getting sick, vomiting, craving, and feeling pain constantly, but she wouldn't tell my grandma. Of course, she was still with my real father, but he was too busy trying to find a job. My mother lied in bed and cried, but no one was there to comfort her. It was hard for her to deal with pain because she never felt nothing like it before.

A few months after she turned seventeen, she gave birth. My mother spent every last penny trying to cloth my sister, get her pampers, and buy her milk. It was hard. My mother couldn't go back to school because she kept getting pregnant. One after the other. She had to stay home and deal with a baby in her arms and a baby in her stomach. She never thought she'd go through something like this, ever.

All together, she has four kids. Girl, boy, girl, boy. Once all of us were on our feet and walking, my father left. It made it even harder for my mother to get all our needs and take care of us. I was just three when my father went packing, and until this day, I don't really know him. My mother had no job and she was a high school dropout. She was hopeless at this time.

As a single parent with four kids, my mother didn't think she'll survive, but gladly, she did. My grandfather helped us for many years, until she found a single, working man. I was about six or seven at the time, and for the first time again, my mother had that smile on her face. He supported us in every way. Took us to the store whenever he came to visit and gave my mother strength. I grew up calling him "dad."

Before my mother met him, she couldn't afford to buy anything babies or kids need. In fact, she couldn't buy anything at all. She was left with nothing in hand but the four of us. I watched my mother pray to God every night and ask God to help us. I watched my mother cry to herself asking what will she do next, and I watched my mother get up on her two feet after so long and said, "I will find a father for my kids who will be there for us!" and she did.

I love my mother for so many reasons. She was strong enough to raise us up with no father, she was there to teach us right from wrong, she did all she could do to cloth us, feed us, and shelter us, she loved us more than anything in the world, she put us first than herself, and the main reason why I love my mother so much, is because until this day, she hasn't given up on us. My mother is the mother I would never replace. She is the best mother anyone could ask for. She is one-of-a-kind.

An amazing grandma, mother, and woman

By MICHELLE LI

Do you have a wonderful grandma? I do. Everyone likes her. She raised three whole families by herself. No one today understands how she did it. Her name is Yiyun Lu.

She gave birth to three kids: my dad, my uncle, and my aunt. During her time, China had a terrible revolution and the economy was very bad. She earned only low wages to support her three children. The most difficult time for her was before the revolution. Her husband was a lazy gambler, so she divorced him. She became a single parent. Although she had a difficult time, she still helps other people by giving a little bit of money to them. People say she is a kindhearted woman.

She was blessed with five grandchildren. Since my uncle had a very busy business, he sent his child to be raised by my grandma. Later, my parents came to Saipan. They also had many things to do so they sent me to my grandma when I was only a month old.

She raised my cousin and me carefully. She tried to give us the best she could offer, and she never complained about it. In 2001, she raised my younger brother. Although he was very naughty, she did not complain either.

With her kind heart and hard work, my grandma raised three whole families by herself. She taught us how to stand alone as we got older. I can still remember all the good advice she gave us. She is truly an amazing grandma, mother, and woman.

My strong-hearted mom

By RICARDO PENALOSA

Moms love their kids no matter what they do or say. My mom is the greatest; she is one of the most soft-hearted people I know. My mom doesn't give up. She works hard for my three siblings and me. She is the most caring and understanding person in the family.

Besides taking care of four children, my mom works fulltime. Even when she's sick, she works for our needs. She also does a great job keeping the house clean and taking care of us. We all love and respect her.

Sometimes there are days when we do things that make my mom sad. No matter what we do, she still makes us happy. My mom understands that we make mistakes like everyone else. When we get in trouble, she's there to back us up. Even when things aren't going her way, she still puts a smile on her face.

That is why my mom doesn't give up. She will fight for us no matter what. My mom does her best to make us happy. She will do her best to get us what we need.

My mom has a strong heart, because she loves us very much. When my brothers, sister, and I feel down and don't know what to do, she's always there. When we need someone to talk to, she is always there to listen. That's what makes my mom unique, because we are her number 1 priority and she loves us the most.

My awesome mother

By RALPH FRANCISCO

Isn't having an awesome mother great? Not everyone has such a mother. I'm very fortunate to have one. My mother's name is Elenita Galeza Francisco. My mother has been there for my eleven siblings and me since the day my oldest brother was born.

My mother is a hardworking person. She is a part-time accountant for some companies, and a fulltime mom for my eleven siblings and me. She washes the dishes, sweeps the house, and folds our clothes for us. My mother is a smart woman. She understands her children, and she's caring too. Whenever she gets angry, she doesn't spank or hit us. Instead, she just tells us or warns us that what we're doing is not right. She's always there for us when one of us children gets hurt.

There was a time when she brought me to the hospital for an illness due to food poisoning. That was the first time I had been to the hospital. She didn't leave me alone. She was there for me and took care of me the whole time until I got better.

I am very fortunate to have a mother like my mother. I appreciate everything she has done for my brothers, sisters, and me. I hope you appreciate your mother for everything she has done for you. For me, my mother is my hero. She is the reason I do well in school.

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My smile

By ROWENALYNN ROMOLOR JACK

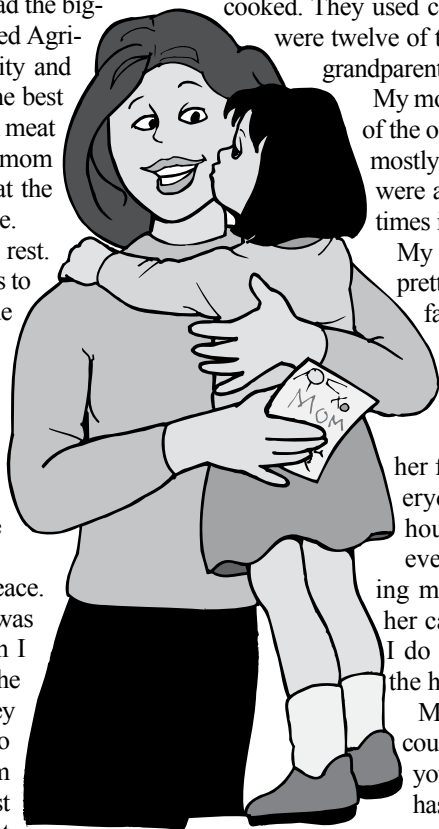
Have you ever smiled out of the blue, because of a thought or a memory? Well I do, especially when I think of my mom. My mom's name was Carmen Romolor Takahashi. She was the best.

My mom died after Mother's Day of 2008. It was the worst day for me. I was only 14 and needed my mom around. As time passed, I realized that she was there, just in my heart, although it was hard to accept the fact that she was physically gone. There are so many things I miss about her, especially her voice. Whether she was telling stories, telling me what to do or just talking, it made me feel at home.

Even though I only had 14 great years with her, my mom taught me so much. She was the oldest out of eight. She had the biggest responsibilities. She grew up on an island called Agrihan in the Northern Islands. They had no electricity and not much of an education. Yet she grew up to be the best person I know. Their everyday food was either fresh meat or any tree-bearing fruit. I understand now why my mom appreciated everything in her life. She told me that the greatest thing you can have is family, and that is true.

I could never understand why she would never rest. She made big sacrifices for our well being and for us to have a home. Even the smallest of her sacrifices made a big difference in my life and I can never thank her enough. If we didn't have food on the table, my mom went out of her way to put food on the table. She always said, "At least we have something to be thankful; there are people who have it much worse than we do." She taught me to appreciate everything we have, even though it wasn't much, because wanting more leaves you with nothing.

I miss her everyday and I know she is resting in peace. One thing I know she really loved was baseball. It was her stress reliever. She was the biggest baseball fan I knew. On her funeral day her favorite team won the game to play the championships. At her funeral, they gave her their uniforms and their tears. She is my hero till this day. I always thought she could be my mom and dad at the same time. She was a strong mother just like every mother out there. She is gone, but the fact that she will always be in my heart and mind keeps me strong and gives me my smile! I love you, Mom! Happy Mother's Day!



My awesome mom

By STANLEY CONDE

My mom is one of the best moms you would want to have. Her name is Helene Ritos Conde. She grew up in a province in the Philippines. My mom and her other siblings would total up to a dozen. She lived next to the beach where their food would always be any seafood that they get from the ocean. Today here on Saipan, my mom watches her friend's kids at home. She has been doing this for years already. She cooks every single day just so we won't miss any breakfast, lunch, or dinner. She also does a lot of chores everyday. I learn a lot from her. That's why my mom is the best.

During her younger years in the Philippines it was hard living in the province, because sometimes there is no rice to eat. So what they did was, instead of cooking rice the way it was supposed to be cooked. They used corn instead. This was harder because they were twelve of them brothers and sisters not including my grandparents.

My mom is the fifth child in the family. She is one of the oldest ones. So she had her job at home. She mostly does the cleaning and the ironing. There were a lot of hands in the house but food sometimes is the problem.

My mom moved to Saipan since 1987. That's pretty long already. She moved here to help her family, because it was easier to find a job here. She has been a house worker since she came. So she was like a family to them. This is our neighbor now.

My mom now just stays home watches her friend's kids. She cooks the best food everyday so we won't starve. She cleans the house, washes our clothes and does mostly everything in the house. I know its tiring doing most of the chores in the house so I help her carry things. What ever she tells me to do I do it to help out and make things easier in the house.

My mom is like everything in the house. She could be a doctor, a teacher, and everything you can imagine. She's like a super mom. She has experienced a lot of hard work since she was young. She is the best mom you can think of.

She is very responsible for a lot and everything. That's why she is the best.

'Mother's Day is everyday'

By SANDRA FLORES

My mother Elisha is the primary support of my family. She's the only one working in our family. So my two sisters and I depend on her for our livelihood. Of course, my father also helps our family. Even though my family depends on my mom for our livelihood, she does not complain even after a hard day.

My mother works hard at a bank in Garapan. She is the most hard-working mother I know. I can truly say I love her. I thank her everyday for her hard work, her support, and most especially her love.

To all teenagers out there, make this day special for your mom. Show her how much you love her. Remember that "Actions speak louder than words". Mother's Day is every day, not just today on May 9th 2010. Happy Mother's Day, Mom!

My stepmom

By MERCEDES LIZAMA

Have you ever had a stepmom? Well, I have one. No, she's nothing compared to Cinderella's stepmother. My stepmother is special. If it weren't for her, I don't know where I'd be now. I am really thankful to have her. Her name is Sandra Dela Cruz. When I was 6 years old, my biological mother abandoned me. At least that's what my family has told me.

So since I was 6 years old, my stepmother has taken care of me. We have had our ups and downs, but she has always been forgiving. She does not work; her fulltime job is taking care of her six children, me, and of course, my dad.

My stepmother is a caring woman. Each time her children and I have an issue, she is always there to give us advice. Not only does she listen to our problems, but also those of our extended family. She truly lends a helping hand to many in our family. My stepmom is one of the nicest people you'll ever meet.

My stepmom is protective of her family at all times. She is a bright lady who is also a very sensitive person. She makes us laugh. She cooks, cleans, and gives us all the support we need. No matter what crisis we face, she is always there to clear the gray skies.

What I really love about her is that she always respects our decisions. The only time she denies our decision is when it's the wrong choice we are making. My stepmom has done so much for us. There is one thing I dislike about her: she can be old fashioned. However, I am one of the luckiest people in the world. Having her in my life is one of the best things that have happened to me. She is the best, and I love her!

BY THE NUMBERS

Mother's Day

The driving force behind Mother's Day was Anna Jarvis, who organized observances in Grafton, W.Va., and Philadelphia on May 10, 1908. As the annual celebration became popular around the country, Jarvis asked members of Congress to set aside a day to honor mothers. She finally succeeded in 1914, when Congress designated the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day.

How Many Mothers

- 82.8 million: Estimated number of mothers in the United States in 2004.
- 55 percent: Percentage of 15- to 44-year-olds who were mothers in 2006.
- 80 percent: Percentage of women 40 to 44 who had given birth as of 2006. In 1976, 90 percent of women in that age group had given birth.

How Many Children

- 2.1: The total fertility rate or number of births per woman in the U.S. in 2007 (based on current birth rates by age). This marks the second consecutive year in which the rate has been above replacement level.
- 2.6: The TFR or number of births in 2006 per woman in Utah (based on current birth rates by age), which led the nation. At the other end of the spectrum is Vermont, with a TFR of 1.7 births per women.
- 94 percent: Among the 37.8 million mothers living with children younger than 18 in 2004, the percentage who lived with their biological children only. In addition, 3 percent lived with any stepchildren, 2 percent with any adopted children and less than 1 percent with any foster children.

Moms Who've Recently Given Birth

- 4.3 million: Number of births registered in the

United States in 2007. Of this number, 445,045 were to teens 15 to 19 and 7,349 to mothers 45 to 54.

- 25.0: Average age of women in 2006 when they gave birth for the first time, down from 25.2 years in 2005. This marks the first decline since this measure became available in 1968.
- 40 percent: Percentage of births that were the mother's first in 2007. Another 32 percent were the second-born; 17 percent, third; and 11 percent, fourth or more.
- 18,674: Number of births in 2006 that were the mother's eighth or more.
- 38,568: Number of births in 2006 that did not occur in hospitals. Of these, 24,970 births occurred at home and 10,781 were in free-standing birthing centers.
- 32.1: Number of twin births per 1,000 total births in 2006. 153.3: Number of triplet and higher order multiple births per 100,000 total births in 2006.
- August: The month with the highest number of births, with 387,798 taking place that month in 2006.
- Wednesday: The most common day of the week to deliver, with an average of 13,482 births taking place on Wednesdays during 2006. This is the first time since at least 1990 that a day other than Tuesday had this distinction.
- Jacob and Emma: The most popular baby names for boys and girls, respectively, in 2008.
- 67: Number of births in the past year per 1,000 women 15 to 50 with a graduate or professional degree. These women have a higher fertility rate than those with any other level of education.

Mothers Remembered

- 19,759: Number of florist establishments nationwide in 2007. The 93,779 employees in floral shops across our nation will be especially busy preparing, selling and delivering floral arrange-

ments for Mother's Day.

The flowers bought for mom have a good chance of having been grown in California. Among the 15 surveyed states, California was the leading provider of cut flowers in 2008, accounting for 78 percent of domestic flower production (\$314 million out of \$403 million) in those states. (The data pertain only to operations with sales greater than or equal to \$100,000.)

- 11,662: Number of employees of the 126 greeting-card publishing establishments in 2007.
- 14,194: The number of cosmetics, beauty supplies and perfume stores nationwide in 2007. Perfume is one of the most popular gifts given on Mother's Day.
- 27,484: Number of jewelry stores in the United States in 2007—the place to purchase necklaces, earrings and other timeless pieces for mom.

Stay-at-Home Moms

- 5.1 million: Number of stay-at-home moms in 2009—down from 5.3 million in 2008. In 2009, 22.6 percent of married-couple family groups with children under 15 had a stay-at-home mother, down from 23.7 percent in 2008.
- Compared with other moms, stay-at-home moms in 2007 were more likely to be:
 - Younger (44 percent were under 35 compared with 38 percent of mothers in the labor force).
 - Hispanic (27 percent compared with 16 percent).
 - Foreign-born (34 percent compared with 19 percent).
 - Living with a preschool-age child (57 percent compared with 43 percent)
 - Without a high school diploma (19 percent versus 8 percent).

Employed Moms (and Moms-to-Be)

- 57 percent: Among mothers 15 to 50 with infants in 2006, the percentage in the labor force. A

cluster of states in the Midwest and also Rhode Island, Maryland, Virginia and Connecticut had rates higher than the national average.

- 766,052: Number of child care centers across the country in 2007. These include 74,763 centers employing 853,648 workers and another 691,289 self-employed people or other businesses without paid employees. Many mothers turn to these centers to help juggle motherhood and careers.
- 67 percent: Percentage of women who gave birth for the first time between 2001 and 2003 and worked during their pregnancy. This compares with 44 percent who gave birth for the first time between 1961 and 1965.
- 80 percent: Among first-time mothers who worked during their pregnancy, the percentage who worked one month or less before giving birth in the early 2000s. This compares with 35 percent who did so between 1961 and 1965.
- 55 percent: The percentage of first-time mothers in the early 2000s who were working by the sixth month after they gave birth. In the early 1960s, the corresponding percentage was 14 percent.
- 83 percent: The percentage of mothers who went back to work within a year of their child's birth who returned to the same employer. Seven in 10 of these women returned to jobs at the same pay, skill level and hours worked per week.

Single Moms

- 9.9 million: The number of single mothers living with children younger than 18 in 2009, up from 3.4 million in 1970.
- 5.6 million: Number of custodial mothers who were due child support in 2007.
- 36 percent: Percentage of women 15 to 50 with a birth in the past year who were not currently married.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Business

1st try to divert oil fails

ON THE GULF OF MEXICO (AP)—Icelike crystals encrusting a 100-ton steel-and-concrete box meant to contain oil gushing from a broken well deep in the Gulf of Mexico forced crews Saturday to back off the long-shot plan, while more than 100 miles (160 kilometers) away, blobs of tar washed up at an Alabama beach full of swimmers.

The failure in the first attempt to use the specially constructed containment box over the leak 50 miles (80 kilometers) off the Louisiana coast, coupled

with the ominous arrival of the sticky substance at Dauphin Island, Alabama, crushed hopes of a short-term solution to what could yet grow into the worst oil spill in the nation's history.

More than 3 million gallons (11 million liters) of crude have spewed into the Gulf since a rig exploded April 20, killing 11, and officials said it would be at least Monday before a different solution is found.

Authorities in protective gear descended on the public beach on Dauphin Island, three miles (five kilometers)

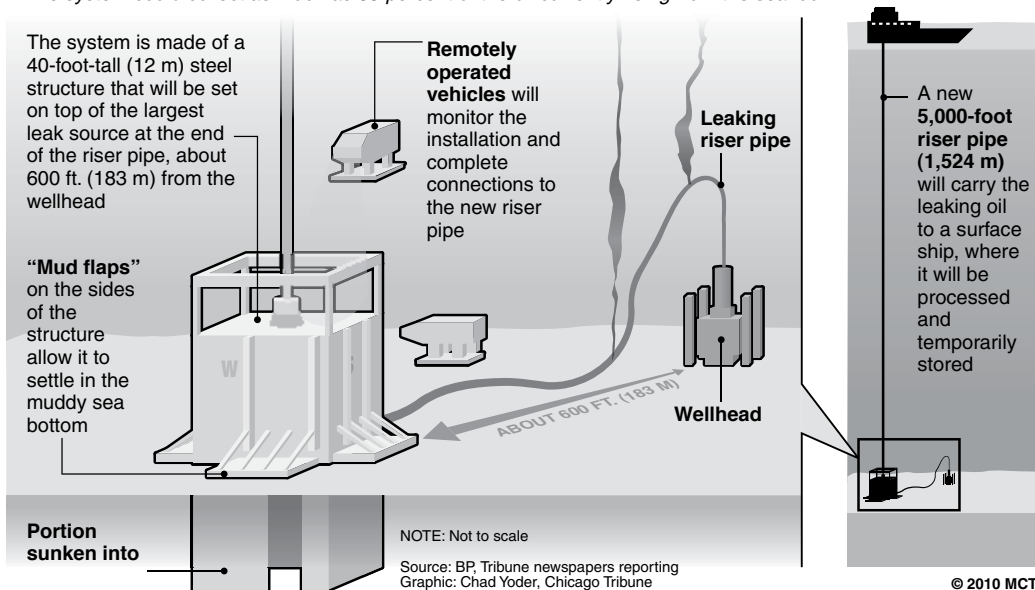
off the Alabama mainland at the mouth of Mobile Bay and much farther east than oil had been reported.

About a half dozen tar balls had been collected by Saturday afternoon at Dauphin Island, Coast Guard chief warrant officer Adam Wine said in Mobile. Authorities planned to test the substance but strongly suspected it came from the oil spill.

The containment box, a method never before attempted at such depths, had been considered the best hope of stanching the flow in the near term.

Putting a lid on it

BP is installing a large structure over the largest oil leak at the Deepwater Horizon oil rig site. The system could collect as much as 85 percent of the oil currently rising from the seafloor.



STARTING FROM OCT. 1, 2010

Continental to double Guam-Osaka service

HAGATNA, Guam—Continental Airlines has announced that they will double their daily round trip service between Guam and Osaka's Kansai Airport starting Oct. 1. It will be the first additional flight after Continental Airlines restarted its year-round flight service on Dec. 23, 2009.

"Continental Airlines is pleased to double their service in the Osaka market in response to strong requests from travel agencies and customers for additional flights to Guam," said Matt Miller, managing director – Asia/Pacific for Continental

Airlines. "Increasing our service to 14 weekly flights from Guam to Kansai is an example of our long-term commitment as Guam's hometown airline."

This additional service provides an afternoon departure to complement Continental's current morning flight schedule. It will allow passengers from Japan using Continental Airlines to choose from four different travel patterns on this route - depart Osaka in the a.m. and return to Osaka in the p.m.; a.m.-a.m.; p.m.-p.m.; and p.m.-a.m. Passengers will be able to enjoy a

more convenient and flexible travel schedule with these various options.

The Guam-Osaka service will be operated with Continental Micronesia's Boeing 737 New Generation aircraft.

Continental Airlines will aggressively continue to look for more opportunities to provide more routes between Guam and Japan where profitable demand is warranted.

Continental Airlines is the world's fifth largest airline. For more company information, go to continental.com.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Ash delays and reroutes trans-Atlantic flights

BRUSSELS (AP)—The Icelandic volcano with the unpronounceable name reminded the world again that it has the power to disrupt international travel. The prospects for Sunday flights remained grim, with no improvement in sight for trans-Atlantic passengers, and with a plume of low-altitude ash continuing to float eastward over Spain and southern France. Flights had to be rerouted north over Greenland or south around Spain to avoid the 1,200-mile (2,000-kilometer)-long cloud stretching from Iceland to northern Spain. Approximately 600 airliners make the oceanic crossing every day. Around 40 percent were rerouted southward and the rest skirted Iceland from the north, according to Eurocontrol.

Regulators look into market plunge, weigh changes

WASHINGTON (AP)—The federal regulators that oversee financial markets say they are investigating the causes of the mass sell-off Thursday that pushed the Dow Jones Industrial average down hundreds of points. They are identifying one possible cause: Conflicting trading rules for different markets. The Securities and Exchange Commission and the Commodity Futures Trading Commission say they are reviewing data related to Thursday's trading frenzy. They are looking at information from exchanges, self-regulatory groups and market participants. They say they will make any necessary changes to prevent the problem from recurring. The SEC and CFTC have ultimate oversight of financial markets, but they generally rely on the markets to write and enforce their own rules.

Nation

IN NYC CAR BOMB PLOT

Puzzle pieces remain missing

NEW YORK (AP)—The Pakistani-American who police say admitted to igniting a failed car bomb in busy Times Square has made no court appearance since his arrest early this week and, though he is cooperating, authorities remain unsure he was acting alone.

New York City Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly declined Friday to discuss what Faisal Shahzad is telling investigators, including what his motives were. He was arrested Monday aboard a Dubai-bound plane two days after the nighttime bomb scare cleared several blocks of the bustling district.

"This individual is cooperating. In these types of situations, you let the information flow, so to speak," Kelly said.

Police have surveillance images of Shahzad around Times Square and video that shows his car traveling to the spot where they say he left a smoking sport utility vehicle May 1 rigged with a gasoline-and-propane bomb.

Law enforcement officials say they are trying to find links between the Bridgeport, Conn., man and possible financing sources, including the Pakistani Taliban, which has both claimed responsibility for and denied roles in the botched bombing.

A money courier was being sought who may have funneled cash to the 30-year-old budget analyst, a law enforcement official told The Associated Press. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the investigation.

Gen. David Petraeus, head of U.S. Central Command, said Friday the Times Square suspect had apparently operated as a "lone wolf" who did not work with other terrorists. Petraeus said in a statement to the AP that the



MORNING FIRE

AP PHOTO/REED SAXON

A firefighter holds a child as his mother stands nearby after a fire at an apartment building near downtown Los Angeles injured 13 people Saturday, May 8, 2010. The injured included a woman who jumped from a window and a 5-year-old girl who suffered third-degree burns, authorities said. Dozens of residents were displaced. Two people were in critical condition, including the 2-year-old, who was being treated at a burn center.

alleged perpetrator was inspired by militants in Pakistan but didn't necessarily have direct contact with them.

Times Square plot may have cost as little as \$7K

NEW YORK (AP)—Terror can come cheap.

Confessed Times Square bomber Faisal Shahzad appears to have financed his failed plot with a wad of \$100 bills, but the amount of money needed to execute the scheme was fairly modest.

There was his plane ticket to the U.S. from Pakistan, as well as a return flight to the United Arab Emirates, at a cost of less than \$800 each way. Add to that his living expenses, including three months rent for a Connecticut apartment at a little less than \$1,200 per month.

His car bomb was relatively cheap, too: \$1,300 for a rusting 1993 Nissan Pathfinder

and the cost of some firecrackers and tanks of gasoline and propane.

Shahzad, who seemed to have paid cash for many and maybe all of his purchases, bought himself a Kel-Tec rifle, which sells for around \$400, but skimped on luxuries.

The 30-year-old slept on an air mattress in a sparsely furnished apartment, and, according to one account, tried to get a job at a jewelry store where he had worked as a young college student.

Shahzad's finances are under scrutiny, as authorities try to learn whether he got cash from a terror group.

ACROSS THE NATION

Staten Island ferry boat idled with accident

NEW YORK (AP)—A Staten Island ferry that malfunctioned and smashed into a pier tossing passengers to the deck and hurting as many as 37 has been idled, while federal and local officials try to figure out what went wrong. The Andrew J. Barberi that hit a pier at St. George Ferry Terminal on Saturday was the same ferry involved in a 2003 wreck that killed 11 people. The ship had a multimillion-dollar rehabilitation before it was put back in service. Capt. James DeSimone, the ferry's chief operating officer, said it was unlikely the mechanical failure had anything to do with damage suf-

fered by the vessel in 2003 and that the ship had passed all the necessary inspections. According to the New York City Department of Transportation, the vessel passed annual inspections in 2009 and a quarterly inspection in April.

Pro marijuana activists enlisting moms

DENVER (AP) — Moms got tougher drunk-driving laws on the books and were directly responsible for passing and then repealing alcohol Prohibition. Now marijuana activists are trying to enlist the nation's mothers in legalization efforts with a sales pitch that pot is safer than booze. The nation's largest marijuana legalization lobby recently

started a women's group. The Moms4Marijuana website draws thousands. And just in time for Mother's Day, a pot legalization group in Denver has created a pink-carnation web card asking moms to support legalization. These marijuana moms argue that pot is no worse than alcohol, that teens shouldn't face jail time for experimenting with it and that marijuana can even help new mothers treat postpartum depression. "I know so many mothers who support this but aren't willing to come out and say it," said Sabrina Fendrick, head of the Women's Alliance at the Washington-based National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws, or NORML.

Asia

RP automated polls a test of democracy

By JIM GOMEZ
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Despite scattered violence and a scramble to fix a computer glitch, officials said Sunday that the Philippines' first automated presidential and local elections this week will be a successful test of its fragile democracy.

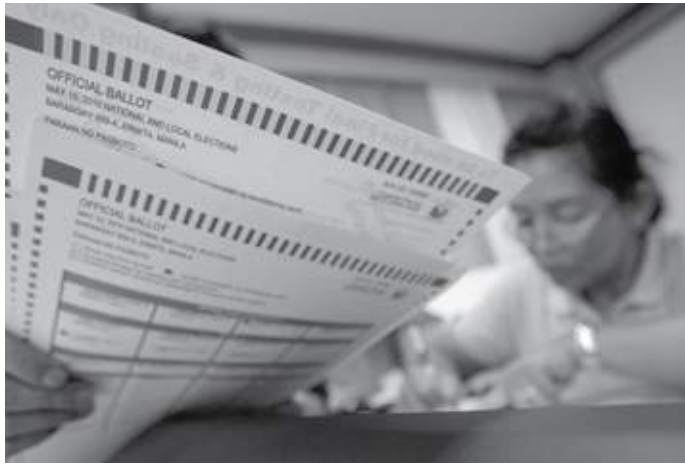
Opposition Sen. Benigno Aquino III, the son of revered pro-democracy icons, has topped pre-elections surveys in the nine-way race for the presidency. His rise reflects the public's longing to fill a moral vacuum in a country exasperated by decades of corruption, poverty and violence.

Aquino's closest rivals include ousted President Joseph Estrada and Sen. Manuel Villar, the country's wealthiest politician. A blistering 90-day campaign ended Saturday, with most candidates promising to steer one of Southeast Asia's economic laggards back to the path to stability.

On the eve of Monday's vote, thousands of workers on board military and private aircraft—and some on foot—delivered optical counting machines to 96 percent of about 76,300 precincts across Southeast Asia's archipelago, Elections Commissioner Gregorio Larrazabal said.

Reconfigured memory cards for the machines have been delivered to regional hubs after the defect prompted a massive recall last week, according to Smartmatic, the consortium that supplied the machines.

Late delivery and final testing may delay vote counting in some far-flung areas, the elections commission said. In the worst sce-



A school teacher tallies votes during a mock voting and final testing of the Precinct Count Optical Machine (PCOS) machine of the first ever automated presidential elections at the Araullo School in Manila, Philippines, Sunday, May 9, 2010.

nario, more than 3 million Filipinos will be able to vote but their ballots won't be counted until the new cards arrive in those areas, the poll body said.

The last-minute problem sparked calls for the polls' postponement and fueled fears of vote-rigging and violence that have long sullied Philippine elections.

"The best way to disprove all the critics who say that this cannot be done is just to do it," Larrazabal told The Associated Press in an interview.

"Some machines won't work but they can be replaced and some voters may not go out to vote," Larrazabal said, adding that majority of Filipinos will cast their vote and demonstrate that "they have a stake in this democracy."

"Too many people want the elections to succeed. Too many people want change," he said.

About 50 million Filipinos will vote to elect a new president, vice president and officials to fill nearly 18,000 national and

local posts.

Presidential spokesman Gary Olivar said he was confident the automated elections will be credible, adding its success will bolster the country's democracy.

"This administration will put all of its resources behind a successful transition of power and preserving the stability and continuity of our republican institutions," Oliver said in a statement.

Violence threatened to derail voting in some areas. More than 2,500 people have been arrested for violating a ban on firearms in public areas and police reported dozens of election-related killings.

Communist New People's Army rebels also have threatened to attack government troops tasked to deliver the counting machines.

Larrazabal said the difficulty of tampering with the automated elections may have prompted some people to resort to violence and intimidation to bolster their electoral chances.

four neighbors and a migrant worker. Xinhua cited police as saying the stabbings occurred Saturday night in the southeastern province of Jiangxi. Xinhua said suspect Zhou Yezhong was caught within two hours of the stabbings.

Thieves abandon Malaysian top cop's car; say sorry

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Malaysian police have recovered a car stolen from a top officer with a note from the thieves inside saying, "Sorry police, wrong target." Police officer Arjunaidi Mohamed says the car belonging to the police chief of central Selangor state was found Saturday in a parking space on the outskirts of Kuala Lumpur. On its dashboard was the handwritten note. Arjunaidi said Sunday that only the door lock on the Proton Perdana was damaged. The car, which did not have a police logo, was stolen Thursday near a restaurant where the police chief's driver had stopped to have breakfast.

Man stabs 8 to death in latest China rampage

BEIJING (AP)—China's state news agency says a man on a stabbing rampage has killed eight people in the country's southeast, including his mother, wife and daughter. The official Xinhua News Agency said Sunday that the man also killed

ASIAN BRIEFS

Magnitude 7.4 earthquake rattles western Indonesia

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—An earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 7.4 rattled Indonesia's North Sumatra province Sunday, prompting a brief local tsunami watch, knocking out power and damaging some homes, officials said. The U.S. Geological Survey said the afternoon quake hit 135 miles (220 kilometers) southeast of Banda Aceh at a depth of 38 miles (61 kilometers). Indonesia and the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center in Honolulu issued a tsunami watch for the area, but both canceled their warnings less than 90 minutes later.

Intel officials: US missiles kill 10 in Pakistan

DERA ISMAIL KHAN, Pakistan (AP)—Suspected U.S. missiles struck a house in Taliban-dominated northwestern Pakistan on Sunday, killing 10 people in the latest American strike targeting militant leaders, intel-

ligence officials said. The strikes were in North Waziristan, a tribal region that has long been a haven for Taliban- and al-Qaida-linked militant networks battling American and NATO forces across the border in Afghanistan. The suspect in the recent failed car bombing in New York's Times Square has claimed he trained in a militant camp somewhere in Waziristan. Two Pakistani intelligence officials said the two missiles hit the house of local tribesman Awal Gul in Enzer Kasa village of the Datta Khel area. Ten people were killed, including an unknown number of militants who were staying at the home, the officials said.

World

11 dead in Russia mine blast

MOSCOW (AP)—Two explosions tore through Russia's largest underground coal mine, killing at least 11 workers and injuring 41 others, an emergency services ministry official said Sunday. A further 84 people remained trapped in the mine, including rescue workers.

Ministry spokeswoman Elena Chernova said on state news TV channel Rossiya-24 that rescue work had been suspended after the second blast, which happened early Sunday morning.

The head of the emergency ministry's regional division, Erem Arutunian, said rescue work was unlikely to resume Sunday because workers were trying to ventilate methane out of the mine, the state news agency RIA Novosti reported.

The first blast, believed to have been caused by methane, hit the Rapsadskaya mine in western Siberia just before midnight Saturday and the second about 3 1/2 hours later. There were 359 workers below ground at the

time of the first explosion, Chernova said.

The second blast destroyed the main air shaft and caused more injuries, and there is a risk of more explosions, said Aman Tuleyev, the governor of the west Siberian region of Kemerovo, according to the state news agency ITAR-Tass.

"The rescue work will continue when the atmosphere in the mine is restored, but to conduct rescue work now means to send people to die," Tuleyev was quoted as saying.

Car bomb explodes near Russian base, 2 killed

MAKHACHKALA, Russia (AP)—A car bomb explosion killed two people near a Russian military base Sunday and a soldier was killed in a separate blast in the same city where a military parade bombing exactly eight years ago killed scores.

The blasts in Kaspiisk took place on Victory Day, the country's most important secular holiday, when sol-

diers parade throughout the country to commemorate the 1945 defeat of Nazi Germany and to show off the country's military strength.

Insurgents have often chosen the holiday to launch terrorist attacks, including the 2004 killing of Chechen President Akhmad Kadyrov, who died in a bomb blast while attending a military parade at a stadium.

Kaspiisk is in Dagestan,

which is Chechnya's eastern neighbor and which has been plagued by insurgent violence for more than a decade.

The car bomb went off near a checkpoint at the entrance to the military base, said Magomed Umalatov, a regional spokesman for the Federal Security Service. He said the two people killed were believed to be suicide bombers who had been in the car.

Iran hangs 5 Kurdish activists for bombings

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iran on Sunday hanged five Kurdish activists convicted of membership of armed opposition groups and involvement in bombings, the country's official news agency, IRNA, reported.

It said the five, who include one woman, were hanged at dawn at Evin prison, north of the capital Tehran.

The five were sentenced to death in 2008 after they were found guilty of "Moharebeh,"

a term Iran uses to describe a major crime against Islam and the state.

The agency said the five—Farzad Kamangar, Ali Heidarian, Farhad Vakili, Shirin Elmheli, Mahdi Islamian—were members of the Kurdish separatist group PEJAK that says it is fighting for Kurdish rights. PEJAK is the Iranian wing of the Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK, which is fighting for autonomy in

southeast Turkey.

The mountainous Iran-Iraq border region has in recent years been the scene of sporadic clashes between PEJAK fighters and Iranian forces.

The Iranian news agency's report said Heidarian and Vakili were arrested after carrying out bombings in western Iran in 2006. Also in 2006, Kamangar was arrested after an explosive timer was found in his house.

WORLD BRIEFS

Costa Rica inaugurates new President Chinchilla

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica (AP)—Adios, peace prize winner. Hola, first female president. Costa Rica inaugurated Laura Chinchilla as its first woman leader on Saturday, replacing Nobel laureate Oscar Arias with his former vice president and protege. Chinchilla promised to rule with "humility, honesty and firmness" and said she'll pursue the same economic policies that recently brought the country into a trade pact with the U.S. and opened commerce with China. Elected in a landslide, Chinchilla has also pledged new protections for the pristine parks and reserves that make this Central American nation first in the world for land preservation. "We're teaming up for a safer Costa Rica," she said, explaining that a safe country offers a good education, health care, decent housing, care for children and seniors, a prosperous and competitive economy and green, clean industry.

Somali pirates hijack chemical tanker with 22 crew

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)—Somali pirates armed with rocket-propelled grenades and automatic guns hijacked a chemical tanker off East Africa with 22 crew members on board, the European Union Naval force said. Spokesman Cmdr. John Harbour said there is little chance that military forces can storm the ship because officials don't believe the crew all made it to a safe room before the pirates boarded. The crew consists of 19 Indians, 2 Bangladeshis and 1 Ukrainian, he said. The ship—the Marida Marguerite—was heading from India to Belgium. Also Saturday, Taiwan's Foreign Ministry said a Taiwanese fishing boat was hijacked off the Somali coast by pirates who demanded a ransom for the crew. The ship's Taiwanese owner lost contact with Tai Yuan 227 two days ago as it headed for the Maldives. When the owner resumed contact with the vessel a day later, he was told by hijack-

ers to pay a ransom for the crew, the ministry said.

Mexico extradites ex-gov. to US on drug charges

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Mexico has extradited a former state governor to the United States to face charges of helping a cartel smuggling cocaine through the resort of Cancun en route to the U.S. market. Mario Villanueva, who was governor of the Caribbean state of Quintana Roo from 1993 to 1999, was turned over to U.S. authorities Saturday at the international airport in Toluca, a city near the Mexican capital, the federal Attorney General's Office said in a statement. Villanueva is the first former governor to be extradited to the U.S. on drug charges. He is charged in New York federal court with aiding the Juarez cartel smuggle hundreds of tons of Colombian cocaine to the United States via Cancun. U.S. prosecutors have said Villanueva received \$500,000 for each of several shipments he aided.

Health & Fitness

A new map of childhood obesity in the US

By JEANNINE STEIN
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Kids in the U.S. have been getting fatter in recent decades, but a new study showing the geographical differences in childhood obesity trends paints a more comprehensive picture of where things are getting worse—and better.

A study released online Monday in the Archives of Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine looked at weight statistics among 46,707 U.S. children ages 10 to 17 in 2003, and among 44,101 children in 2007. In 2007, 31.6 percent of children were overweight, and

16.4 percent were obese, and overall childhood obesity rates went up 10 percent between those years. In 2007, the prevalence of obese children was highest in Mississippi (21.9 percent) and lowest in Oregon (9.6 percent). The prevalence of overweight children was highest again in Mississippi (44.5 percent) and lowest in Utah (23.1 percent). Between 2003 and 2007, obesity prevalence declined in Oregon by 32 percent.

Other trends emerged: The Southeast had the highest instances of obese and overweight kids. Arizona and Illinois showed sizable jumps in prevalence of obesity from 2003 to 2007, at 46 percent and 32 percent, respectively.

The prevalence of all overweight kids didn't show any substantial change in the four years, but it went up 9 percent for girls. Prevalence of obesity in girls went up 18 percent in that time. Geographic patterns mirrored those of adults.

Researchers noted that odds of being overweight or obese increased relative to lower household income levels, less neighborhood access to parks and sidewalks, lower levels of physical activity, and more time spent watching TV or on the computer.

Black and Latino children had higher rates of obesity and greater chances of being overweight than their non-Latino white counterparts, after re-

searchers adjusted for socioeconomic and behavioral factors, and state of residence.

In the study, the authors wrote, "... geographic analysis is crucial in that it allows indi-

vidual states to know how they are performing on a key health indicator (such as childhood obesity) relative to other states and to the nation as a whole. Such information is vital to

state-based health surveillance efforts and to the development and implementation of state-based policies and programs to tackle the growing epidemic of childhood obesity."

How to...eat less at night

By ALISON JOHNSON
DAILY PRESS (NEWPORT NEWS, VA.)

Some successful dieters swear by a strategy of not eating after about 7 p.m., while nighttime bingeing is a major problem for many people. Here are tips from nutritionists:

■ **Don't starve during the day.** Never skip meals, and add in healthy snacks if you feel hungry. Otherwise, you're very likely to overeat at night.

■ **Drink plenty of water.** If you think you're hungry, you may actually just be thirsty. Before eating anything, have a glass of water or some un-

sweetened, decaffeinated tea. Avoid too much alcohol, however; it may make you crave junk food.

■ **Set a regular dinnertime.** Your body will come to expect food at that time. Focus on fiber—fruits, vegetables and whole grains—low-fat dairy and lean proteins to fill up.

■ **Try making dinner your smallest meal.** Some people do well by having their largest meal at breakfast, their second-largest at lunch and only a modest-sized dinner.

■ **Brush your teeth.** A clean mouth can curb an urge to eat more. Brush right after dinner or

at least an hour before bedtime.

■ **Chew sugarless gum.** You can keep your mouth occupied without snacking. For many people, mint is the best flavor for curbing cravings.

Ban nighttime boredom. Late-night eating often is a result of having nothing else to do. Pick up a new hobby or activity, connect with your spouse, take a walk or call a friend.

■ **Form new habits.** Stop eating after a specific time—say, 7 or 8 p.m.—for a week. Then aim for a month. By that time, your new pattern should be set.

■ **Go to bed.** An earlier bedtime will keep you from eating, as well as control production of hunger-triggering hormones.

NUTRITION QUIZ

Zinc about it

By SAM MCMANIS
THE SACRAMENTO BEE

Have a seat. Our micronutrient *du jour* is zinc. Oh, you'll have the special zinc quiz? An excellent choice. Dig in.

1. Zinc is beneficial in many ways. Which of the following is not one of them?

- a) Improves immune response
- b) Decreases bad breath
- c) Hastens wound healing

2. Zinc deficiency can lead to which of the following conditions?

- a) Hypogonadism
- b) Hypodermatitis
- c) Hypochondria

3. The recommended daily allowance of zinc is 11 milligrams for an adult male, 8 mg for an adult female. What is considered the tolerable upper intake level per day?

- a) 40 mg
- b) 140 mg
- c) 400 mg

4. Besides ingesting a limited number of zinc-rich foods, what is one major cause of severe zinc deficiency?

- a) Gout
- b) Type 2 diabetes
- c) Liver disease

5. Which soft-tissue part of the body has the highest concentration of zinc?

- a) Gall bladder
- b) Prostate
- c) Heart

6. Which food boasts a whopping 513 percent of the daily value for zinc?

- a) Olives
- b) Oysters
- c) Ostrich meat

ANSWERS: 1: b; 2: a; 3: a; 4: c; 5: b; 6: b

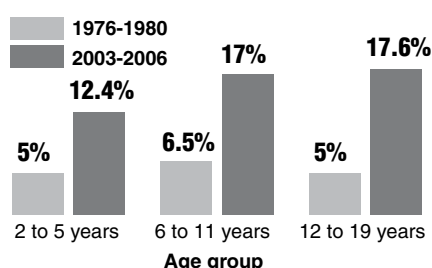
Sources: NIH Office of Dietary Supplements (ods.od.nih.gov); Linus Pauling Institute (lpi.oregonstate.edu).

Too young, too heavy

Children who are well above the normal weight for their age and height may be on the road to lifelong health problems.

Obesity on the rise

Percentage of children in each age group considered to be obese*



*Data from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey

Major risk factors

Poor diet

Fast foods, baked goods, vending machine snacks, sugary drinks

Inactivity

Fewer children are participating daily in physical activity at school



What you can do

• Provide plenty of vegetables, fruits, whole-grain foods

• Limit portion sizes during meals

• Setting example by being active; children mimic adults

• Children, teens need 60 minutes of active exercise daily

Screening

The Body Mass Index formula (BMI) used for children differs from the formula used for adults by taking into account:

Age

• A child's body fat changes depending on age

Sex

• Amount of body fat differs between boys and girls

Obesity's toll

• Can lead to heart disease caused by high cholesterol

• Type 2 diabetes

• Asthma

• Sleep apnea

• Social discrimination

© 2010 MCT
Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Mayo Clinic
Graphic: Lee Hulteng

Body rebels against even one sleepless night

By SHARI ROAN
LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES—Everyone feels crummy trying to function after a sleepless night. Physiologically, the body is protesting too. A new study has found that the loss of one night's sleep can trigger insulin resistance, which provides more evidence that healthy sleep patterns are vital to good heart health.

Insulin resistance is a condition in which the body produces insulin but does not use it properly to respond to glucose in the blood. This increases the risk of conditions such as obesity, diabetes and heart disease. Previous studies have shown that a regular pattern of insufficient sleep increases insulin resistance. But this is the first study to show a single

night of lost sleep can trigger insulin abnormalities. Researchers in the Netherlands reached this conclusion after examining nine people—once after a normal night's sleep and once after a four-hour sleep at night—and measuring their insulin sensitivity.

"Our data indicated that insulin sensitivity is not fixed in healthy subjects, but depends on the duration of sleep in the preceding night," the lead author of the study, Dr. Esther Donga, of the Leiden University Medical Center, said in a news release.

Studies are needed to see if improving sleep duration can help stabilize glucose levels in people with diabetes.

The study will be published in the June issue of the Journal of Clinical Endocrinology & Metabolism.

Personal Trainer

'Stitch': Painful, mysterious spasm

A sharp pain in the side that strikes when you are running or walking briskly is called a "stitch." Why it happens is still not known.

Theories on what causes stitches

- The liver, a heavy organ, stretches ligaments when it bounces up and down
- Diaphragm muscle between chest and abdomen does not receive enough blood
- Pockets of trapped gas in the small intestine

What to do if stitch starts

- Stop or slow down, bend forward and push fingers into painful area
- Breathe deeply, exhaling slowly
- Raise arms above your head and stretch gently

How to prevent stitches

- Wait 30 to 90 minutes before exercising after a meal
- Warm up before exercising
- Increase intensity of exercise gradually, not suddenly
- Work to increase your aerobic capacity; conditioned runners don't get stitches very often

Source: Wellness Encyclopedia

Graphic: Paul Trap

Life & Style

A bullet in Baghdad, a son's need, and a mother's love

By MARILYNN MARCHIONE
AP MEDICAL WRITER

MANASSAS PARK, Va. (AP)—There are mothers who will spend today missing sons and daughters fighting overseas. There are women who have lost children in those wars, for whom Mother's Day will never be the same.

And then there is Eva Briseno.

Joseph Briseno Jr., Eva's 27-year-old son, is one of the most severely wounded soldiers ever to survive. A bullet to the back of his head in a Baghdad marketplace in 2003 left him paralyzed, brain-damaged and blind, but awake and aware of his condition.

Eva takes care of "Jay" in her suburban Virginia home where the family room has been transformed into an intensive care unit, with the breathing machine and tubes he needs to stay alive.

Try to imagine this life.

Each day starts with two hours of bowel care, an ordeal as awful as it sounds. She labors over his body, brushing his teeth, suctioning fluid from his lungs, exercising his limp arms and legs, and turning him every other hour to prevent bedsores.

She sleeps a few hours at a time, when the schedule says it is her turn, often slumped in exhaustion by his side.

She has been out to dinner with her husband, Joseph Sr., once in seven years.

She could have a better life if she put Jay in a nursing home. Or if she went back to using the home health care nurses the government provided. But one looked indifferently without wiping Jay's mouth when he drooled. Others fell asleep on the night shift, inattentive while Jay suffered seizures.

It's hard for a mother to watch such lapses. The nurses don't love Jay. His parents do. So they have chosen to care for him on their own, and you will not find them feeling sorry for themselves—only for him.

A lesser man would leave, Eva says of her spouse, whom she has known since grade school in their homeland, the Philippines. A lesser woman would cringe at the wound care and bodily indignities that Eva has learned to manage for her son, Joseph says.

"I can't walk away from this. She can't. I'm very proud of my wife," he said.

What keeps Eva going is hope that stem cells or some future treatment advance will help her son.

"I do believe in miracles," she says.

Yet desperation clouds her prayers. "Most of the time I ask God if I can take Jay's place," she confesses, unable to suppress a sob.

Hearing his mother, Jay cries too, the tears silently slipping from his blind eyes.

For Eva, the tears began the day Jay shipped out, on his 20th birthday in 2003. He was a student at George Mason University, hoping to become a forensic sci-

entist. He had joined the Army Reserves and was surprised to be called up so soon. Eva took a cake to his unit before he left.

At first, she wasn't very worried: Jay was assigned to civilian work, building community relations. A few months later, the call came. One of those civilians had shot Jay in the back of the head at point-blank range. His spinal cord was shattered, and cardiac arrests

ON THE NET

■ Brisenos on Facebook:
<http://tinyurl.com/ya5rjfa>
also <http://www.caringbridge.org/va/jaysjourney/>
■ Motherhood award nominees:
<http://tinyurl.com/ydnvpus>
■ Charities:
<http://www.rebuildingtogether.org/>
<http://www.homefrontonline.com>

led to brain damage that left him unable to see or to speak more than an occasional word.

His family became a mass casualty of the wound.

His parents quit their jobs and drained their savings to take care of him after he came home from hospitals and rehabilitation centers. His younger sisters, Malerie and Sherilyn, help when they can, and Joseph does a big share. But much of the care falls to Eva, a small, doe-eyed woman who weighs 100 pounds to Jay's 147.

At first, she took care of Jay in the basement, using a hoist that some charities provided to lift him into a wheelchair and the shower. But descending those stairs became a descent into hell. After a while, Eva could no longer bear caring for him in that cave-like setting.

So they moved Jay upstairs, sur-



In this April 8, 2010 photo, Eva Briseno massages her son's foot at their home in Manassas, Va.

rounding him with white walls, bright flowers and Washington Redskins gear so he will have cheerful things to look at in case he has glimmers of vision the doctors can't detect.

Eva fills his days by reading him news stories, telling him how good he looks and how nicely he is dressed, and playing the "young people music" he likes on the radio. He grins when the Redskins win, or when Linkin Park, Eminem, Jay-Z or Beyonce are on. Others get a grimace.

"He doesn't like Mariah Carey or Kelly Clarkson," Eva laughs.

She reminisces about Jay as a teen who loved track and field, played pranks on his sisters, tested her nerves when he was learning to drive, and hosted parties with friends in that basement she now avoids.

Jay's care requires a schedule with such military precision that trips to the grocery store or to church must be planned two days in advance.

It starts at 6 a.m., when Eva gives Jay medicines, logs his blood pressure and temperature, and begins his bowel care. That involves properly positioning him, giving suppositories and bathing him afterward. If it's not done right, he can suffer obstruction or impaction, and they've been down that road before.

Next comes grooming, and cleaning the breathing tube that attaches to his respirator. By noon, Jay is dressed and into a wheelchair, a lunchtime sludge of nutrients draining into his feeding tube while he listens to the TV. Afternoons bring physical therapy and twice-weekly prayer sessions with a deacon who comes

to their home.

At night, they give Jay breathing treatments, empty his urine bag and weigh its contents, because a change in volume can be a sign of trouble.

When taking care of such basic needs in babies, "you see them grow" and have the joy of watching them progress, Eva said. "Now, every day is the same," and the only changes are bad ones, she said, starting to cry again.

A year ago, Jay had a setback and lost the ability to swallow. Two months ago, he suffered a nicked kidney and internal bleeding after an operation for kidney stones.

When the doctors showed Eva his big wound and how to care for it, "I thought at first, 'I cannot do it,'" she said. But again, she rose to the occasion.

The degree of care the Brisenos provide is unusual, said Dr. Mitchell Wallin, one of Jay's doctors and a neurologist at Georgetown University and the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Washington, D.C.

"Most patients in this kind of condition would not be able to live at home," Wallin said. The Brisenos "are doing an incredible job," he said. "They don't take enough breaks. They're almost too dedicated."

Jay's father has a plan: forming his own home health care agency to supply nurses for Jay and other wounded veterans.

"The only way we can move on with our lives is to hire and interview, from the start, these nurses," he said. "One of them straight up told us, 'I'm in it for the money.' We just looked at each other and said, 'You're in the wrong house. You're not coming back here.'"

The Brisenos are proud of their son's service despite the price they all pay for it now.

"This is the effects of war, its effects on families. War is ugly and the American people need to know this," said Jay's father, who spent 17 years in the Army himself.

Eva admits regret but also feels gratitude.

"Probably other mothers regret having their sons or daughters go to war, especially when they come home hurt. It's not easy seeing your child be in this position," she said. "We are so proud of Jay and we thank God every single day that we have him."

Betty White: Golden hosting 'Saturday Night Live'

NEW YORK (AP)—Betty White demonstrated how it's done as host of this week's "Saturday Night Live."

Drawing on her six decades in comedy, she was the consummate pro at 88 years old - sweet, sassy, salty, charming and clearly game for anything.

"I'm not new to live TV," she reminded the audience at the top of the show, and recalled that she had starred in a sitcom that aired live back in 1952.

"Of course, back then, we didn't WANT to do it live. We just didn't know how to tape things." A perfectly timed beat. "I don't know what THIS show's excuse is."

Billed by NBC as a special Mother's Day edition, the show had a definitely feminine tone and was a reunion of sorts for "SNL" alumnae, bringing back former regulars including Amy Poehler, Tina Fey, Ana Gasteyer and Molly Shannon. (Jay-Z

was musical guest.)

But White was the queen bee, appearing in nearly every bit throughout the 90-minute span—and never failing to punch it up.

As a dotty resident being surveyed by census-taker Fey, White listed other residents in her apartment as Fluffy, Princess, Tigger and Socks.

"These are people we're talking about and not cats, right?" asked the wary Fey.

"There's really no way of knowing," came the reply. "Sometimes when I see their big eyes looking up from my lap, I think that's definitely a homeless guy in a fur coat."

White played the star of a new "CSI" spinoff set in a Florida retirement community, "CSI: Sarasota."

As an investigator (identified as David Caruso's great-aunt), she wasn't buying the story that the victim had died of natural causes.

"Oh, really," she scoffed. "Since when does a 103-year-old man simply drop dead?"

She appeared in three "MacGruber" sketches as the grandmother of the bumbling special-op agent played by Will Forte, each time nagging and be-

rating him as he tried (unsuccessfully, of course) to defuse the ticking bomb.

She played the guest of Gasteyer and Shannon, co-hosts of a public-radio cooking show, in a sketch slyly built around an alternate meaning for "muffin."

Actress Lynn Redgrave is laid to rest in NY

KENT, Connecticut (AP)—Friends and family said final goodbyes to Lynn Redgrave on Saturday and laid the 67-year-old actress to rest near her mother amid the rolling hills of upstate New York.

The star of "Georgy Girl" died Sunday at her home in Kent, Connecticut, surrounded by her children. She had been diagnosed with breast cancer in 2002.

At a private funeral near her Connecticut home Saturday morning, pall bearers carried a basket-weave casket adorned with flowers through a light

drizzle into the First Congregational Church of Kent. Her older sister, Vanessa Redgrave, was among those attending, along with niece Joely Richardson, and Liam Neeson, widower of her niece Natasha Richardson.

Actor Brendan Fraser, Lynn Redgrave's "Gods and Monsters" co-star, said after the service that she helped him learn to respect his craft.

"Lynn had a real quiet bliss about her, and enthusiasm," Fraser said. "I think if I ever saw her sad, it was in a performance."

'Iron Man 2' puts pedal to the metal with \$52.4M



Actors Robert Downey Jr. and Gwyneth Paltrow arrive for the world premiere of "Iron Man 2" at El Capitan Theatre in Los Angeles on Monday, April 26, 2010.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Robert Downey Jr. is packing a bigger box-office punch with his second "Iron Man" movie.

"Iron Man 2" took in \$52.4 million domestically on its opening day Friday. That's nearly a 50 percent increase over the \$35.2 million first day of the original "Iron Man" two years ago.

That puts the Paramount release based on the Marvel Comics superhero on track

for a debut weekend of \$125 million to \$135 million, which would make it the fifth-biggest opening weekend on the box-office charts.

The first "Iron Man" movie had a \$98.6 million debut weekend.

"Iron Man 2" has taken in nearly \$150 million overseas since it debuted in many international markets last week. Worldwide, the movie has climbed to a \$200 million total.

'Iron Man 2' stars kiss and tell

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Spoiler alert! At long last, Tony and Pepper kiss.

In the 2008 blockbuster "Iron Man," billionaire Tony Stark (aka superhero "Iron Man," played by Robert Downey Jr.) and personal assistant Pepper Potts (Gwyneth Paltrow), nearly locked lips.

Near the end of "Iron Man 2," they finally get to finish what they started.

"Actually shooting the kiss itself was great, because the two actors have tremendous affection for one another, as friends," said director Jon Favreau. "And so it was a nice feeling. It was the last day of shooting. We were there, and it was one of my favorite moments in the film."

Also present were Downey and Paltrow's respective spouses, Susan Downey (an "Iron Man 2" executive producer) and Coldplay singer Chris Martin.

"It wasn't weird at all," recalled Downey. "Every script discussion had to do with, 'Is there going to be a kiss? What's going to happen with Tony and Pepper?' It was the No. 1 question of the fans. So, it was the most important

thing for us to address."

As for Downey kissing someone else in front of his wife? "I'm working. I'm working. I'm working," he replied. "(Paltrow is) cute. She's great. We're both very happily (married). I'm not going to try to compete with Chris Martin, particularly when he's there."

Noted Paltrow, "In our job, it's not such a big deal. We kiss people all the time. ... We just kiss whoever they say. So, it wasn't a big deal to me at all. It was kind of funny. Robert and I are really close friends. We don't ... it's not like that. But in a movie, it's always a fake kiss anyway."

Never fear, action fans. Things don't get too lovey-dovey here. The kissing scene is lightened with a comic-relief stinger delivered by Stark's longtime friend and fellow crime fighter James Rhodes (Don Cheadle). "I think it's a testament to the way this movie is made," Cheadle said. "We're always pulling the sentiment out right from under. That could have been framed around that moment. But, no. 'Just poke a pin in that. Let's just move on.'"

Women busy nurturing others forget to nurture themselves

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: This is the time of year we think not only about our mothers, but all the women who have helped to shape our lives. But as they focus on work, family and home, many of them tend to neglect themselves and their health.

That's why the U.S. Food and Drug Administration Office of Women's Health and the Federal Citizen Information Center would like to help women to take time to care for themselves by offering them our free Health Information Kit.

With topics like managing medicines, avoiding health scams, practicing food safety and, of course, taking care of the entire family, the advice and tips in this kit are a source of wisdom for women to use and share with one another.

Abby, thank you for letting our readers know about our free Health Information Kits and for reminding women that as they're caring for others, they need to take care of themselves.

MARSHA HENDERSON, ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER
FOR WOMEN'S HEALTH (ACTING), FDA

DEAR MARSHA: I'm pleased to spread the word. The fact sheet on food safety you're offering is particularly important, given that many people have gotten food poisoning and mistaken it for the flu. Your fact sheet on antibiotic resistance is also useful because overuse of antibiotics in this country has made it increasingly difficult to treat some serious medical problems.

And readers, did you know that we all can play an important public health role by reporting any adverse reactions and unexpected side effects after using a medical product? A guide to reporting problems to the FDA is included in this packet of information for women—and more. So place your orders today. Quantities are limited, so do it now by going online to pueblo.gsa.gov or send your name and address to Health Information Kit, Pueblo, CO 81009. By phone, call (888) 8-PUEBLO (that's (888) 878-3256), weekdays 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Eastern time, and ask for the Health Information Kit. And remember, it will be sent at no cost to you.

DEAR ABBY: I recently took my daughter to an "open house" at our local college. My daughter refuses to ask questions, so I started asking about credit hours, finances, scholarships, etc.

A few people were not happy that I was there. I was told that I was what they referred to as a "hovering" parent and I needed to let her attend the open house on her own. I told them—very politely—that because I was paying for her education, I wanted to know what I was getting for my money. I told them if I was going to buy her a car, I feel I'd have the right to test drive it first to make sure it was worth the money.

Should I have left her there on her own and hoped everything turned out OK? I know kids need to grow up and make their own mistakes, but if they do it with my money, they won't learn because it would cost them nothing. Do you think I was out of line?

QUESTIONING DAD IN ARIZONA

DEAR DAD: I don't think so. It's not unusual for parents to take their sons and daughters to look at prospective colleges—and the questions adults would ask might not be the same ones their teen might think of. However, if the individuals who suggested that you were "hovering" were employees of the college, it's possible you did go overboard, and it's time to begin encouraging your daughter to be less of a shrinking violet. Being so shy that she's unable to ask questions is a handicap in a competitive academic setting.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

UK's Prince Harry to fly Apache attack helicopters

LONDON (AP)—British Army commanders have selected Prince Harry to train as an Apache attack helicopter pilot, his office said Friday, boosting the 25-year-old's hopes of returning to the front lines in Afghanistan.

Prince Harry, who received his pilot's wings from his father, Prince Charles, at a ceremony on Friday, said it was a "huge honor" to learn to fly "an awesome helicopter."

"There is still a huge mountain for me to climb if I am to pass the Apache training course," he said in a statement issued by his London office.

"To be honest, I think it will be one of the biggest challenges in my life so far," the statement said. "I am very determined, though, as I do not want to let down people who have shown

faith in my ability to fly this aircraft on operations."

The prince, who is third in line to the British throne and is known in the military as Lt. Harry Wales, passed his basic helicopter training course last month.

He was one of nine training pilots awarded their provisional wings by Prince Charles, who is Colonel in Chief of the Army Air Corps.

"You are looking very smart, if I may say so," Charles told his son as he inspected the graduates. Chelsy Davy, who has long been romantically linked with Harry, was in attendance, cheering loudly when his name was called out as the winner of the Peter Adams Trophy, a prize for the best tactical ability during the operational training phase.

Harry's success at basic

training granted him the right to choose to apply to train on either the Apache, or the Lynx, a battlefield utility helicopter. His office said that Army Air Corps commanders judged that the prince's skills and flying abilities best suited the Apache, which was designed to hunt and destroy tanks.

The helicopter has been extensively used in Afghanistan to assault enemy ground positions and fly cover for Chinook heavy-lift support helicopters.

Harry has made no secret of his desire to return to the front lines in Afghanistan.

The young royal—who was denied the chance to go to Iraq when the British army said it was too risky—served in Afghanistan in 2008 as a battlefield air controller until his time was cut short by a media leak.

Flying is in the family's royal blood: Harry's older brother, William, is learning to fly search-and-rescue choppers. Charles qualified as a helicopter pilot in 1974, and their uncle, Prince Andrew, flew a Royal Navy helicopter during the Falklands War.

Report: Actor Connery in Spanish property probe

MADRID (AP) — A Spanish news network says former James Bond star Sean Connery will be questioned over a real estate deal.

Cadena Ser and other media outlets say Connery and wife Micheline Roquebrune will be called to a court in coastal Marbella over matters related to the sale of an area estate.

For 20 years Connery vacationed at his lavish property, Malibu, before selling it in 1998. After the sale, a block of 70 apartments was built on the spot.

Madrid and Marbella lawyers Diaz-Bastien & Truan—who media reports Friday said represented the Hollywood actor—told The Associated Press their offices were raided Wednesday by Treasury inspectors, but declined to confirm if Connery was a client.

Neither the Marbella court nor the Treasury department would comment.

Robbie Knievel eyeing Idaho jump attempted by dad

TWIN FALLS, Idaho (AP)—The son of daredevil Evel Knievel wants to follow in his late father's footsteps and attempt to jump the Snake River Canyon in southern Idaho, a spokesman for Robbie Knievel says.

Jeff Lowe said motorcycle jumper Robbie Knievel will be in Twin Falls on Monday to discuss the plan with local officials. The jump is tentatively set for the Fourth of July weekend in 2011, almost four decades after Evel Knievel's try, Lowe said.

Evel Knievel, who died in 2007, failed to clear the chasm in 1974

in a rocket-powered "Skycycle" when the parachute malfunctioned and deployed after takeoff. Strong winds blew the cycle into the canyon, landing him close to the swirling river below.

Shawn Barigar, president of the Twin Falls Area Chamber of Commerce, told The Times-News that local government officials and business leaders have been invited to attend the private meeting with Knievel.

Julie Pence, spokeswoman for the city of Twin Falls, said officials are waiting to hear Knievel's proposal before commenting.

Robbie Knievel, a native of Butte, Montana, has been considering the jump for several decades, visiting the region in the 1990s to seek permission. But in 1993, he told the newspaper he wanted to "make sure everybody is happy about it first."

Local officials and businesses have been trying to use the site of Evel Knievel's jump to draw in tourists.

Last year the Twin Falls City Council agreed to make a change to a land trade agreement so the public could have access to the area.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

Today for 'show and tell,' I have a souvenir from the afterlife! Yes, you heard right! Equally amazing is my own story of yesterday afternoon, when I actually died of boredom!

I was doing my homework, when suddenly I collapsed! I felt myself rising, and I could see my crumpled body on the floor. I drifted up in a shaft of light and I entered the next world!

Eventually, my heart started again and I came back to life... but not before bringing this back!

It was pretty boring there, too.

Let's have a look at that homework.

A Yo-Yo?

© 1990 Universal Press Syndicate

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

The tuna noodle casserole just burst into flames.

I'll hose it down, and you get the catsup.

We're bachelors, baby.

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By Jim Davis

Adam@home

Hey, look! I've never seen that coffee shop before. I'm going in.

Looks a bit scary. Maybe I should rethink this.

Oh, don't be such a baby.

Hello... hello... is anyone in there going to hurt me?

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By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

Wow! Look at the time. I gotta get home and watch 'So You Think You Can Dance' better than a 5th grader!

Here you go, Sid. Keep the change.

Forget it, Eno. Your money's no good here.

Wow, thanks! I appreciate that, Sid!

No, I mean I don't accept Monopoly money.

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By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Walking tempo

5 Paid athlete

8 Cavort

12 "Gracias"

14 Always

15 Round Table knight

16 Cabbie's payment

17 Census statistic

18 Barnum's partner

20 Accumulate

23 Calf's papa

24 Barn-roof accessory

25 Meddler who ruins a plan

28 Id

29 Human trunk

30 Steal from

32 Rorschach design

34 Hardy cabbage

DOWN

1 Old TV ministry letters

2 "Eureka!"

3 Container

4 Put in a box

5 TV

6 Aussie hopper, for short

7 Eruption

8 Second drink, so to speak

9 Elliptical

10 Unembellished

11 Quarry

13 Small barrels

19 Dog food brand

20 Rd.

21 Creche trio

22 Soon, in poetry

23 Low-ranking nobleman

25 Black-strap, for example

26 By word of mouth

27 Turnpike fee

29 Recipe meas.

31 Ottoman title

33 Chopping spree?

34 Pure gold = 24 —

36 Heavy reading?

37 Rose holder

38 Sumptuousness

39 One

40 Datum

43 Sch. grp.

44 Shelter

45 Raw rock

46 Catch some rays

Solution time: 24 mins.

Saturday's answer 5-10

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Keanu Thompson, 32; Jason Brooks, 44; Bono, 50; Donovan, 64

Happy Birthday: It's your turn to be forceful, aggressive and determined. You have what it takes to create your own scenario and draw attention to something you believe in wholeheartedly. Don't let any negatives you face drag you down. Use your knowledge and experience to put what you want into place and the rest will be history. Your numbers are 6, 11, 13, 22, 29, 37, 45

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You can make things work as long as you know what you are dealing with and how to handle others. A budgeted shopping spree will update your look. Consider what you need to do to maintain or better your health. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Deal straight up with people with whom you have an issue, so the situation won't spin out of control. You will learn valuable information if you ask questions -- get the facts rather than making assumptions. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): The more open you are to suggestions and trying new things, the better you will do personally and professionally. Invest in something you are knowledgeable about and you will make a financial gain. Don't push others to get involved. ****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Domestic discord can disrupt your day if you aren't prepared to deal with personal issues quickly and move on to projects and pastimes you find satisfying. An intriguing connection to someone you meet will spark your interest. Proceed with caution. **

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): If you take time out to relax, you will do a much better job. A physical challenge will be invigorating and will bring you in touch with someone who shares common interests. Romance is looking quite positive. *****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): The information you gather will help you make a good financial decision, as long as you don't let your personal life influence what needs to be done. Rely on technology to lighten your workload and your travel time. Leave personal problems alone until you have a better handle on the situation. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Emotional matters will surface, forcing you to discuss matters you may have let ride. Once you realize where you stand, it will be easier to make a move that is beneficial to your future plans. Travel if the journey will result in acquiring an important skill. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Your talent must be highlighted in order to make it worth your while to get involved in a financial partnership. Growth, expansion and development should be your priority. Don't overdo it financially. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Set your sights high and don't let what others do influence you. A problem at home should be rectified before you move ahead with personal plans. You may be caught in the middle of an unsavory situation if you ignore information. *****

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Prepare to go another round if you didn't take care of pressing matters the first time. You'll be questioned about your plans and how you intend to fit them into your responsibilities. You cannot waste time or skirt issues. **

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): It's your commitment to finish what you start that will impress someone you are interested in working alongside. Make sure you aren't taken for granted by others. You need to stabilize your financial situation. ****

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Make a point of sharing your plans for the future and what you need from others to follow through. Trouble and stress at home or with a personal matter will be taxing but don't let it slow down your professional progress. ***

Birthday Baby: You are imaginative, original and a bit of a dreamer. You aren't afraid to make changes. You are aggressive and competitive. Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, myspace.com/eugenialast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvice.com for fun

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

12 13 14

15 16

17 18 19

20 21 22 23

24 25 26 27

28 29 30 31

32 33 34

35 36

37 38 39 40

41 42 43 44 45 46

47 48

49 50 51

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

4 6 8

2 9 5 7

3 8 1

9 5 4

4 1 7 3 6 5 9

5 1 2

1 4 5

8 2 6 3

6 3 8

Difficulty Level ★

5/10

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Saturday's SUDOKU Answer

2 4 5 9 1 6 7 8 3

8 6 1 3 2 7 9 5 4

9 7 3 5 4 8 1 6 2

6 9 2 1 7 5 3 4 8

4 3 7 6 8 9 2 1 5

5 1 8 4 3 2 6 7 9

1 2 6 8 5 3 4 9 7

3 8 9 7 6 4 5 2 1

7 5 4 2 9 1 8 3 6

WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle -- horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

MIXING COOKIE BATTER Solution: 8 letters

R A G U S T N E I D E R G N I

S E R R T W A N O M A N N I C

S O D O E H E S M D B I T S

E A T W M A G E T I E D N A H

N T R E O A S I T Y L O E E E

K M A O M P R E L S I K T H E

C E I L L P T R P T C C R E T

I A S V O L E R A S I O O R K

H L I P A C I R A O O U H U I

T U N E I N O N A Y U N S S T

I T S P K C I H G T S T O A C

M A E L E A R L C R U E E E H

I P E D N I B I L F U R R M E

N S S E C I P S S A T O E V N

G P I H W U E R A P E R P L E

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Aroma, Bake, Bits, Chocolate, Cinnamon, Counter, Crisp, Decoration, Delicious, Grease, Hand, Heat, Ingredients, Kitchen, Light, Measure, Milk, Oatmeal, Pour, Powder, Prepare, Raisins, Recipe, Rich, Rolling, Serve, Sheet, Shortening, Spatula, Spices, Sprinkle, Stir, Sugar, Sweet, Tasty, Temperature, Thickness, Timing, Trays, Treat, Vanilla, Whip

Last Saturday's Answer: Calculate

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Position: Planning Administrative Assistant

Opening Date: April 26, 2010 **Closing Date:** May 25, 2010

Salary: PL-20/01 to PL20/05 (\$14,388.82 to \$17,482.77 per annum)

Job Location: NMHC Central Office, Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950

Detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be picked up, together with NMHC's employment application form, during regular working hours at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan during regular working hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

Applicants are requested to submit their original application and supporting documents to the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, no later than 4:30 p.m., May 25, 2010, OR **MAILED AND POSTMARKED** no later than May 25, 2010, to the Corporate Director, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/ Joshua T. Sasamoto
Corporate Director

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ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$15	\$27
• 5-Liner	\$24	\$39
• 3-Liner with picture	\$24	\$42
• 5-Liner with picture	\$36	\$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Saturday Issue:

- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met.
No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

HOOOPS

Find today's solution in this section



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Opening Date: Wednesday, 5/5/10

Closing Date: Tuesday, 5/18/10

JVA No.	Position Title	Positions	Salary*	Contract	Location
10-020	Admin. Supp. Asst.	Two	\$ 11,036 to \$ 15,080	Two-year	Procurement &/or Admin on <u>Saipan</u>

*For more information about the position(s) being advertised; requirements, equivalency policy, and salary; please contact or stop by the Human Resource office on the third floor of the Joeten Dandan Building.

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DRUNK DRIVING

Over the limit. Under arrest.



Bryant scores 35 as Lakers beat Jazz



SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—Kobe Bryant and Derek Fisher hit back-to-back 3-pointers during an 8-2 run in the final minute and the Lakers held on for a 111-110 victory over the Utah Jazz on Saturday night that put Los Angeles on the verge of sweeping the Western Conference playoff series.

The Jazz had two chances to win it in the final 4 seconds, but Deron Williams missed from the top of the key and Wesley Matthews' tip just before the buzzer bounced off the rim.

Bryant finished with 35 points and Fisher scored 20 for the Lakers, who can close out the four-game sweep with a win Monday night in Game 4. Pau Gasol added 14 points and 17 rebounds for Los Angeles.

Williams scored 28 and Kyle Korver added a career playoff-high 23 points for the Jazz.

Ron Artest scored 18 of his 20 points in the second half for the Lakers, who never led by more than four but stayed close enough to win it in a thrilling final minute.

Bryant's 3-pointer with 54 seconds left tied it at 106. After a jumper by Williams, Fisher hit another from beyond the arc to put the Lakers up 109-108 with 28.6 seconds left.

Carlos Boozer, who had 14 points and 14 rebounds, missed a putback attempt and the Jazz had to foul Bryant, who hit both free throws for a 111-108 lead with 7.8 seconds left. Williams drew a foul with 6.1 seconds and made both from the line to cut it to 111-110.

Lakers couldn't inbound the ball and called timeout. They tried again, but Fisher fell before he could get the pass from Artest, and Korver grabbed the loose ball and called timeout with 4.4 seconds left. Fisher thought he was fouled by Wesley Matthews and stood with his arms in the air asking why there was no call.

After the timeout, Williams' shot from the top of the key bounced off the rim. There was still enough time for Matthews to get a hand on the rebound, but his tip also bounced off and the Lakers leaped off the bench to celebrate.

This is the third straight playoffs the Lakers have played the Jazz and Los Angeles had lost Game 3 in Utah each of the previous two.

Andrei Kirilenko returned from more than a month out with a strained left calf and had eight points and six rebounds. Paul Millsap added 13 points for Utah.

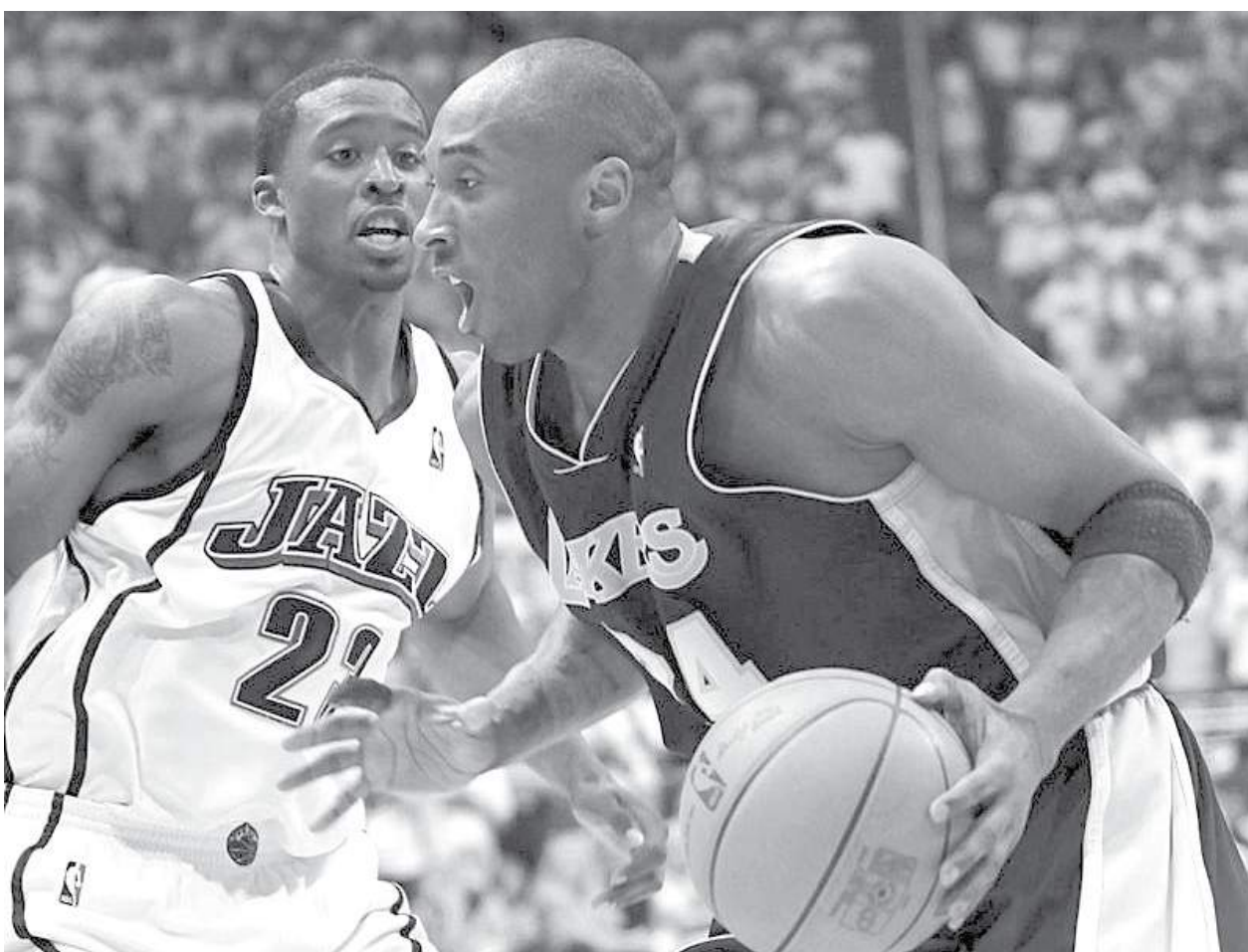
Kirilenko got a standing ovation when he entered with 6:54 left in the first. He had three rebounds and two points in less than a minute, tipping in his own miss with 6:07 left. He added a block on Bryant with 5:24 left in the period.

Magic 105, Hawks 75

In Atlanta, Orlando keeps on winning, even when Dwight Howard doesn't stand out.

One more Magic victory will finish off the Atlanta Hawks.

Rashard Lewis scored 22 points and the backups helped Orlando pull away early with Howard on the bench as the Magic handed the Atlanta Hawks the worst home playoff loss in team history and moved to the brink of their second straight sweep with a victory.



Los Angeles Lakers guard Kobe Bryant, right drives past Utah Jazz guard Wesley Matthews, left, during the second half of Game 3 of the NBA Western Conference second-round playoff series in Salt Lake City, Saturday, May 8, 2010.

Howard had 21 points and 16 rebounds but was hardly dominating. No problem for the Magic, who have so many complements to Superman and allowed many of them to shine in Orlando's seventh straight postseason victory and 13th straight win overall.

Lewis knocked down four 3-pointers. Jameer Nelson scored 14 points. Mickael Pietrus chipped in with 13, hitting three shots from outside the arc. Marcin Gortat, Howard's backup, grabbed six rebounds in less than 10 minutes. All 10 Orlando players who got on the court made it to the scoresheet.

The Magic are up 3-0 in the best-of-seven series, winning by an average margin of 29 points. Game 4 is Monday night, and about all the Hawks are playing for is pride. No NBA team has

ever come back from such a daunting deficit, and the challenge looks even greater considering how well the Magic are playing.

Atlanta never led in this one and was trailing 24-16 when Howard picked up his second foul with 1:45 left in the opening quarter. Even with its big man on the bench, Orlando just kept adding to it lead.

Lewis hit a jumper and Gortat flew through the lane for a dunk that gave the Magic a 28-18 lead after one period. The Hawks never got the margin under double figures again.

Orlando dazzled with crisp passing, always seeming to find the open man. Nelson swished a 3-pointer to make it 33-20, prompting Atlanta to call an early timeout in hopes of finding some-

thing, anything to slow the Magic.

No chance.

Even with only one starter on the court, Orlando kept the Hawks in check. By the time Howard returned to the game with just under 7 1/4 minutes left in the first half, the Magic were comfortably ahead 38-24. After Mike Bibby missed a 3-pointer, Howard grabbed the rebound and the Magic worked the ball to Pietrus for a 3-pointer that stretched the margin to 41-24.

The Magic went to the locker room with its biggest lead of the half, 52-33, after a most telling sequence. The Hawks failed to beat the 24-second clock and Orlando went to the other end for yet another trey from Lewis. Atlanta fired up one final miss ahead of

the clock, leaving the court to a round of boos from the home crowd.

Showing his frustration, Josh Smith pushed away a cameraman who was attempting to follow him off the court.

The Hawks shot only 35 percent (29 of 83), and their best player was the biggest culprit. Joe Johnson made only 3 of 15 attempts to finish with eight points. Jamal Crawford led the Hawks with 22 points.

Late in the third quarter, Orlando stretched its lead to 26 points. At that point, Howard's numbers looked rather mortal - 11 points and nine rebounds. He did the bulk of his scoring and rebounding after the game was long since decided.

Not too many fans were around for the ending. When J.J. Redick swished a 3-pointer to make it 88-59 with more than 8 minutes remaining, many in the crowd popped out of their seats and headed for the exits.

The Magic led by as many as 31 in the final quarter—not quite as dominating as their 43-point win at home in Game 1, but not too far off considering this rout came on the road.

Orlando hasn't lost in more than a month, and the Hawks—a 53-win team that claimed the No. 3 seed in the Eastern Conference—surely don't look like a group that has any chance of ending that streak.

The Magic's last defeat was a 112-100 setback at San Antonio on April 2. They have lost only three times in their past 30 games, showing they are very much a team that can challenge the two No. 1 seeds, Cleveland and the Los Angeles Lakers.

As for the Hawks, the end is near.

This is a team that could be headed for a major overhaul despite five straight years of steady improvement.

Johnson heads into free agency this summer, and there's no assurance the Hawks will be willing to give up the maximum deal it will likely take to keep him. Coach Mike Woodson's contract is up, as well, and the team has declined to even start talks on a new agreement until after the season.

Westwood takes 1-shot lead at Players

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Fla. (AP)—One round away from one of the biggest wins of his career, Lee Westwood of England knows what to expect on the final day of The Players Championship.

Not only because of his 16 years and his 30 victories worldwide, or his 54-hole lead last month at the Masters.

Saturday on the TPC Sawgrass was enough of a reminder.

Westwood watched a two-shot lead turn into a two-shot deficit. Over the final hour, Robert Allenby picked up three shots on the last three holes, while Heath Slocum dropped four shots on the last six holes.

The day ended with Westwood hitting a daring shot with a 6-iron through a gap in the trees for a par on the 18th hole for a 2-under 70 to finish the third round with a one-shot lead, same as he started. He has more company now - Masters champion Phil Mickelson included—but the course is as significant as the names behind him on the leaderboard.

"There was no real scope for thinking about anything else other than what

I was doing," Westwood said. "It's that kind of golf course. If you play well, birdies are available. If you don't hit good shots, they penalize you. That's what good golf courses do to you."

This day, there was a little of both.

Mickelson suddenly was back in the picture, along with that No. 1 ranking, because of his 66 that put him five shots behind.

Tiger Woods was not, courtesy of a bogey-bogey finish for a 71 that put him 10 shots behind.

Allenby was five shots behind when he walked off the 13th tee. He made up ground quickly with a 6-iron to about 12 feet on the par-5 16th for eagle, then a 12-foot birdie on the island-green 17th that curled into the side of the cup. He shot a 67 to get in the final group.

"That's the thing," Allenby said. "You don't know what's going to happen out there. All you can do is just play your own golf. But I knew I had to push it a little bit just to try to get within reach. Obviously, the lea-

derboard changed a couple of times through the back nine. Luckily for me, I did well on the finishing holes."

Westwood was at 14-under 202.

"The golf course changed a lot. It got really firm this afternoon," Westwood said. "I thought I played well - gave myself a lot of chances, missed a couple, but all in all, I was pleased with the way I played. I didn't make too many poor shots out there."

He certainly didn't on the 18th after his drive landed in a drain grate. He took a free drop, saw a gap in the trees and hit a 6-iron onto the green to give himself another shot at winning.

"Had to go under one limb and then over the next lot of trees," Westwood said. "It just looked perfect for the trajectory."

Mickelson began the day nine shots out of the lead, same as Woods.

They went opposite directions, however. Mickelson didn't make a bo-

gey until the final hole for a 66 to put himself back into the picture, just five shots behind Westwood. The 10 players ahead of him have a combined 14 victories on the PGA Tour.

"I feel like things started to click a little bit today, and I think I've got one more low round in me," Mickelson said. "I just hope that it will be enough, that I'll be within striking distance."

To reach No. 1 for the first time in his career, Mickelson has to win and have Woods finish out of the top five. Woods did hit part with a bogey-bogey finish for a 71 that put him 10 shots behind in a tie for 45th. Woods' final bogey came after he popped up another 3-wood and had to hit fairway metal to the green.

It was the second time this week he hit a fairway metal for his second shot to a par 4.

"I had it going for a little bit," Woods said. "I thought if I could have birdied 16 and 17, I'd have been right back in the tournament."

Even for the 14 players separated by five shots, so much depends on Westwood and Allenby.

THE PLAYERS

Teixeira hits 3 HRs as Yankees beat Red Sox



BOSTON (AP)—Mark Teixeira joined Lou Gehrig as the only Yankees to hit three home runs against the Boston Red Sox as he and Francisco Cervelli drove in five runs each as New York clinched another series with a 14-3 win Saturday.

The Yankees have won nine of their first 10 series this season, a mark surpassed only twice in team history. They won 14 of their first 15 in 1928 and 11 of their first 12 in 1939.

Teixeira hit solo homers in the fifth and seventh, then hit a two-run shot far over the left field wall in the ninth off outfielder Jonathan Van Every, who last pitched on April 30, 2009, for Boston. He now has five homers this season after hitting three for the third time in his career.

Cervelli singled in a run that tied the score 3-all in the third, hit a two-run single in the fourth that put the Yankees ahead 6-3 then capped a four-run eighth that made it 12-3.

Alfredo Aceves (3-0) relieved CC Sabathia with two outs in the bottom of the fifth after a rain delay of 1 hour, 14 minutes. Clay Buchholz (3-3) allowed six runs in five innings for Boston.



Boston Red Sox catcher Victor Martinez, left, reaches to tag out New York Yankees' Randy Winn (22) trying to score on Francisco Cervelli's single in the fourth inning of a baseball game at Fenway Park in Boston Saturday, May 8, 2010.

Tigers 6, Indians 4

At Cleveland, Miguel Cabrera hit a tie-breaking, two-run single in the seventh inning to lead Detroit past Cleveland.

Cabrera's bases-loaded line drive off Kerry Wood (0-1) broke a 3-3 tie and Detroit went on to win its 10th consecutive game against the Indians. The Tigers are 18-4 in the series over the past two years, outscoring Cleveland 116-79.

Justin Verlander (3-2) gave up three runs over six innings, striking out nine. A year ago, the right-hander was 4-0 with a 0.90 ERA and three games of 11 strikeouts against Cleveland.

Orioles 7, Twins 3, 1st game Twins 6, Orioles 1, 2nd game

At Minneapolis, Scott Baker put together his best start of the season after Francisco Liriano tossed one of his worst as Minnesota salvaged a split of its doubleheader with Baltimore.

Nick Markakis drove in three of the five two-out runs off Liriano (4-1) in the opener, when Baltimore cruised to a victory. The doubleheader made up for a rain out Friday night.

Joe Mauer returned in the nightcap for the first time since missing eight games with a deeply bruised left heel. The reigning AL MVP drew a standing ovation as a pinch hitter in the eighth inning, but struck out with the bases loaded.

Light-hitting Drew Butera followed with a two-run single, giving Baker (4-2) more than enough support. The Twins starter scattered three hits — including a solo homer to Luke Scott in the fifth — while winning for the first time since April 16.

Athletics 4, Rays 2

At Oakland, California, Ben Sheets finally pitched like an ace and Daric Barton drove in a pair of runs as Oakland handed Tampa Bay its second road loss of the season.

Sheets (2-3) scattered four hits over 6 1-3 innings and had a season-high eight strikeouts in his most impressive

start of the year.

Andrew Bailey pitched the ninth for his sixth save in six tries.

Jason Bartlett had an RBI double for Tampa Bay, which fell to 13-2 away from Tropicana Field and lost to the A's for the first time this season.

White Sox 7, Blue Jays 3

At Chicago, Jake Peavy pitched eight innings for his second straight victory, Paul Konerko hit his major league-leading 13th homer and the White Sox snapped the Blue Jays' six-game winning streak.

Konerko drove a two-run shot off Brett Cecil (2-2) in the first inning and the White Sox drew three bases-loaded walks, including two in a four-run seventh that broke open a 3-1 game.

That was enough for Peavy (2-2), who retired the first 16 batters before John Buck hit his eighth homer. He also allowed a leadoff shot in the eighth to Alex Gonzalez.

Rangers 3, Royals 2

At Arlington, Texas, Ian Kinsler hit a tiebreaking single in the eighth inning to lift Texas over Kansas City.

With the score even at 2, Royals starter Gil Meche (0-4) walked Michael Young with one out in the eighth. Josh Hamilton followed with an infield single, and Young advanced to third on Vladimir Guerrero's flyout.

Kinsler, playing his ninth game after missing the first 21 because of a high ankle sprain, lined a 2-2 pitch to right field that scored Young.

Angels 4, Mariners 3, 10 innings

At Seattle, Hideki Matsui became the ninth Japanese player to reach 1,500 career RBIs when he singled home Bobby Abreu in the top of the 10th inning, and Brian Fuentes got his first save in two weeks for Los Angeles.

Matsui's single and 611th RBI in the major leagues came off David Aardsma (0-2) after Abreu doubled leading off the 10th.

Seattle's closer pitched 1 1-3 innings and allowed four hits plus a walk.

The Mariners lost their eighth consecutive game, all at home.

Mets 5, Giants 4

At New York, Henry Blanco hit a lead-off homer in the 11th inning to give the New York Mets a victory over the San Francisco Giants for their second game-ending drive by a catcher in less than a day.

Blanco drove a 1-0 pitch from former Mets reliever Guillermo Mota (0-1) just over the wall in left for his first homer of the season. Rod Barajas connected in the ninth inning in New York's 6-4 victory Friday night.

Jason Bay and Angel Pagan had two RBIs apiece for the Mets, who haven't lost at Citi Field since a 9-3 setback against the Chicago Cubs on April 21. Hisanori Takahashi (3-1) pitched a perfect 11th for the victory.

Aubrey Huff drove in two runs for San Francisco, which lost catcher and cleanup hitter Bengie Molina to a tight left hamstring in the third. Slumping

slugger Pablo Sandoval singled in the fourth to end an 0-for-15 slide and hit a sacrifice fly in the eighth.

Brewers 17, Diamondbacks 3

At Phoenix, Jody Gerut hit for the cycle and drove in four runs, and Ryan Braun also had four RBIs for Milwaukee.

Rickie Weeks and Casey McGehee each added three hits and Randy Wolf (3-2) settled down after a rocky first inning to improve to 7-1 at Chase Field.

Gerut hit a solo home run in the second inning, singled in the third, drove in a run with a triple in the fifth and added a two-run double in the ninth.

Mark Reynolds hit his 10th home run and had two RBIs for Arizona, which allowed a season high in runs.

Braves 4, Phillies 1

At Philadelphia, Eric Hinske ignited a three-run rally in the sixth inning as Atlanta snapped Philadelphia's four-game winning streak.

Hinske's one-out double to right after Chipper Jones and Brian McCann led off with singles knotted the score 1-1. Melky Cabrera followed with a single to left to give the Braves the lead, and Omar Infante's sacrifice fly made it 3-1.

The Braves added a run in the eighth on Troy Glaus' RBI single, and Billy Wagner pitched the ninth inning for his fourth save in five chances.

Nationals 5, Marlins 4

At Washington, Adam Dunn was hit by a

pitch with the bases loaded in the eighth inning, allowing the go-ahead run to score and giving Washington the victory over Florida.

Josh Willingham had a triple, homer and two RBIs, and Willie Harris also homered for the Nationals. Matt Capps closed the ninth inning for his major league-leading 12th save.

With the score tied at 4 in the eighth, the Nationals loaded the bases on reliever Burke Badenhop (0-4) on a hit batter, a wild throw on an infield single that allowed runners to reach second and third, and an intentional walk. Reynal Pinto was then called in from the bullpen to face Dunn, and hit his right arm on a 1-2 pitch to score the run.

Reds 14, Cubs 2

At Cincinnati, Joey Votto hit a two-run homer in his first at-bat, and Jonny Gomes broke the game open with a bases-loaded single in the seventh off Carlos Zambrano to lead Cincinnati over Chicago.

Votto extended his hitting streak to seven games when he connected off left-hander Tom Gorzelanny (1-4), who hadn't allowed a homer by a left-handed batter. Gomes' single sparked a five-run rally in the seventh, and Ryan Hanigan added his first career grand slam an inning later.

Cubs shortstop Starlin Castro doubled and scored in four at-bats, a day after he drove in a record six runs during his debut.

Pirates 2, Cardinals 0

At Pittsburgh, Jeff Karstens made a bid to keep his spot in the rotation with six innings of three-hit ball and Jason Jaramillo had three hits for the Pirates.

Karstens (1-1) combined with four relievers on a four-hitter. Jaramillo, the Pirates' backup catcher, tied a career high with his third three-hit game and had an RBI single.

The Pirates won for the fourth time in their last five games and beat St. Louis for just the fourth time in their last 14 meetings. The Cardinals lost for the fourth time in five games.

Padres 2, Astros 1

At Houston, Jon Garland pitched seven shutout innings to win his fourth straight start for San Diego.

Yorvit Torrealba and Chase Headley drove in runs for the Padres, who've won 16 of their last 21 games. The Astros have lost 11 of their last 12, averaging 1.75 runs during the skid.

Felipe Paulino (0-5) struck out a career-high 11 in seven effective innings, but got no help from Houston's hitters, who produced fewer than three runs for the ninth time in 12 games.

Rockies 8, Dodgers 0

At Los Angeles, Jhoulys Chacin made his second stellar start since being inserted into Colorado's injury depleted rotation as the Rockies took knuckleballer Charlie Haeger for a six-run first inning to beat Los Angeles.

Ian Stewart hit a two-run homer and RBI single among his three hits. Carlos Gonzales had a three-run double in support of Chacin (2-0), who has filled in brilliantly while Jorge De La Rosa and Jason Hammel have been on the disabled list.

The 22-year-old right-hander scattered six hits over 7 1-3 innings, struck out seven and walked two.

Cushing suspended for violating NFL policy on PEDs



HOUSTON (AP)—Texans linebacker Brian Cushing was suspended for four games on Friday for violating the NFL's policy on performance-enhancing substances.

The 2009 Defensive Rookie of the Year will miss the first four games of the upcoming season and be eligible to return during the week of Oct. 4. The Texans play Indianapolis, Washington, Dallas and Oakland

during his suspension. Cushing can participate in preseason practices and games.

"We were disappointed to learn that Brian has been suspended for the first four games of the 2010 season," Houston general manager Rick Smith said in a statement. "Brian is a productive member of our team and this is a significant loss, but we have to be prepared to win without him."

Cushing, the 15th overall pick

in last year's draft out of Southern California, had 133 tackles in 2009. The Texans finished 9-7 last season for their first winning record thanks in part to the improvement of a young defense that features Cushing, star middle linebacker DeMeco Ryans and 2006 top overall pick Mario Williams.

Veteran Kevin Bentley, who appeared in each game for Houston last season but never started, is Cushing's backup at outside linebacker.

Pacific Games third trial at Laolao west



Golfers are told to get ready for the third qualifying tournament for the 2011 Pacific Games.

The third of a series of trials that will decide the composition of the CNMI Team to the quadrennial meet in Noumea, New Caledonia, will take place on May 24 on the west course of the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

Golfers wishing to join the third qualifier must inform organizers before the event at the Kagman facility for the pairings.

Organizers are also reminding participants to come on time. Check-in time for the May 24 qualifier is at 11am, while tee time is at 12pm. If a golfer misses the tee time, he will automatically be disqualified for that round.

So far, there are only 11 golfers who competed in the first two qualifiers. They and their scores and average after two trials are Ed Manibusan (69/73/71.2); Nick Sablan (79/78/78.5); Jeff Taylor (80/74/77); Joji Taguchi (80/77/78.5); Adam Hardwicke (82/75/78.5); Jess Wabol (82/78/80); Tony Sat-

ur (85/77/81); Ralph Yumul (85/78/81.5); Steve Balakrishna (82/85/87.5); Steve Jang (87/80/83.5); Joe Saurez (91/90/90.5). Tars Olopai joined only the second qualifier and topped the field with his 1-under par 71.

Six qualifying tournaments will be played to select the five golfers who will represent the CNMI to the Pacific Games in New Caledonia in September next year. All scores in the six qualifying rounds will be added to determine the rankings of the qualifiers. An optional seventh round will be

scheduled, too to give golfers who will miss one qualifier to make up. Pacific Games hopefuls can also use the optional round to drop their lowest score in the first six rounds.

The fourth trial will be played on June 19 and the last two will take place on July 19 and Aug. 21. Venues for the fourth to sixth qualifying tournaments will be announced later.

For more information, contact Jess Wabol at 288-1129, Edward Manibusan at 235-6520, Jeff Taylor at 483-2513, or Jordon Kosam at 483-4506. *(Saipan Tribune)*

THREE

From Page 28

Football Club,” Ravell said.

In the regular season, with their defense in sync, Matansa’s offense was also in tune, as Ravell’s wards tallied 27 goals in eight games, the most by any of the four teams in the league.

Tahlia Hideo had 11 of them, tying Paire Football Club’s total for the regular season. Hideo was later awarded with the

Golden Boot plum, which Ravell received at the awards ceremony in absence of the former.

With Hideo out, Camacho stepped in on offense, hitting her first goal in the 13th minute. Camacho added one more in the 38th minute to win the medal for the most goals scored (four) in the festival.

Matansa started the festival with a 3-0 thrashing of Tan Holdings FC and then completed a sweep and notched a finals seat after shutting out

MP United, too, 2-0. MP United gained the second finals berth despite tying Paire with a 1-1 record, due to the lesser goal it gave up in the playoffs. In two games, Paire gave up three goals, one more than MP United’s two. Paire settled for third place after a similar 2-0 win over Tan Holdings in the consolation game.

In the finals, Matansa reasserted its might against MP United with Camacho leading the former’s attack.

Joining Camacho and Hideo on the champion team are Patricia Mae Echavez, Almira Deleon Guerrero, Ann Victoria and Doreen Ravell, Chelsea Leskosek, Jace Pineda, Tiana Ranjo, Kimiko Tenorio, Nichello Sablan, Jessica and Julliane Bigueras, Isabella Edgar, Maria Dizon, Teisha Camacho, and Natasha Quitano.

Meanwhile, results of the boys U14 finals will be published in tomorrow’s edition of *Saipan Tribune*.

BREWERS

From Page 28

in Benavente.

In the second, a couple of Fielders runners were caught gambling around the bases and they ended up going 1-2-3, but starting pitcher for the Fielders, Shane Mendiola, answered back by striking out the side for his boys in the bottom half.

In the third, Juan Maratita led off with a base hit and was brought in off a triple by Eli Aughenbaugh. Aughenbaugh later scored off an error to give

the Fielders a brief lead.

But in the bottom half, the Brewers started at the top of the line up and busted the game open.

Toi Celis led off and reached off an error and Benavente brought him home with double.

Byron Kaipat singled in Benavente and after a couple of friendly fielding errors, Sablan scored Kaipat with a base hit.

After a hit by Reno Celis brought home Sablan, Dave Kapileo brought home Celis with a double.

Mabel Ngirngemelas reached with a base hit and Toi Celis

cleared the bases again with a 2 RBI single before the Fielders could escape the inning.

After the big seven-run bottom of the third, the Brewers were ahead, 9-3.

The Fielders managed a run in the top of the fourth, but the Brewers answered again with two runs of their own.

Ton Tenorio hit a double for the Fielders with one out and later came to the plate off a sacrifice fly by Maratita.

In the bottom half, Kaipat led off with a double and was driven home off a double by Sablan.

Then Reno Celis singled in

Sablan to make the score, 11-4, Brewers, after four.

Despite belting out seven more hits in the last five innings, the Brewers only managed to score one more run in the bottom of the eighth inning. However the Fielders only sprinkled three runs off six hits late in the game and could not overcome the effects of the third inning where four costly fielding errors contributed to the Brewers’ breakout lead.

Game 2 of the Brewers-Fielders matchup is set tonight at 6:30pm.

MOONLIGHT

From Page 28

points in the final canto to preserve the win.

With the loss, Team 4 remained winless in four games. Leo Canedo had 14 markers in Team 4’s losing effort.

In the second game, Team 10 leaned on Jerome Reyes’ hot hands to beat 9ers, 83-75.

Reyes exploded for 37 points,

including 10 in the fourth to foil 9ers’ repeated comeback bids.

After falling behind by as much as 10 in first, 15-25, 9ers forced a deadlock at the end of the third, 65-all, to threaten Team 10. However, 9ers failed to neutralize Reyes in the fourth period, falling short in their bid to steal the match.

Team 10 improved to an even 2-2 mark, while 9ers absorbed their third loss in four games.

In the third game of the day,

Brabu Bulls won over Team 12, 85-79. Details of the match were unavailable at press time, but it was the Brabu Bulls third win in a row and they were going for four yesterday. Team 12 dropped to a 1-3 slate.

First Game

Team 10 83 – Reyes 37, Banatasa 17, Duenas 14, McKeith 10, Cruz 4.

9ers 75 – Diaz 16, Poquiz 14, Quemado 12, Buniag 10, Deang

8, Miguel 6, Manglona 5.

Scoring by quarters: 25-15, 44-40, 65-65, 83-75.

Second Game

Moonlight 64 – Masga 25, Anasan 13, Diaz 12, Takai 8, Caro 2, Basa 2.

Team 4 57 – Canedo 14, Pacheco 13, Mateo 11, Malasarte 8, Conti 5, Fernandez 2, Alcantara 2.

Scoring by quarters: 16-17, 37-29, 50-40, 64-57.

NGIRCHONGOR

From Page 28

Lala Taitano, who finished second with a total of 655 pinfalls and average of 163.75 in four games. Cora Muna came in third with a four-game total of 651 pinfalls and average of 162.75.

Joining Zapanta in the April winners’ list was sprinter Dennis Ngirchongor.

Ngirchongor earned NMASA members’ nods during the selection for the month’s top athletes

last Thursday after his impressive showings in the Micronesian Games and 2010 All Schools Athletics Championships qualifying tournaments.

In the Micro Games trials, the World Youth Championship participant made the grade for the 100m and 200m races.

He timed in at 11.30 seconds in the 100m qualifier to finish second behind CNMI record holder Tyrone Omar. In the 200m, Ngirchongor stunned Omar, as the former crossed the finish line first and submitted

23.69 seconds.

With his impressive times, Ngirchongor will be among the CNMI’s medal contenders in the 2010 Micronesian Games, which Palau will be hosting from August 1 to 10.

In the All Schools qualifier, Ngirchongor did not only qualify, but also recorded personal best in the 100m and 200m runs. He completed the 100m sprint in 11.13 seconds and the 200m run in 23.97, which was a personal best before he eclipsed his own record in the Micro

Games trial.

Ngirchongor was the top-ranked qualifier in the two races in the All Schools trial. He also led Marianas High School to first place in the trials for the boys 4x400m and 4x100m relay runs.

Ngirchongor and other qualifiers in the elementary, high school, and junior high school will compete in this week’s 2010 All Schools Athletics Championships, which run from from May 13 to 15 at the Oleai Sports Complex track and field facility.

NBA LEADERS

Scoring	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Wade, MIA	5	62	27	166	33.2
James, CLE	8	88	62	256	32.0
Anthony, DEN	6	64	50	184	30.7
Rose, CHI	5	57	18	134	26.8
Nowitzki, DAL	6	58	40	160	26.7
Bryant, LAL	8	71	48	202	25.3
Durant, OKC	6	43	54	150	25.0
Williams, UTA	8	54	69	194	24.3
Richardson, PHX	9	73	29	208	23.1
Nelson, ORL	6	45	27	134	22.3
Boozer, UTA	8	78	17	173	21.6
Westbrook, OKC	6	43	32	123	20.5
Billups, DEN	6	37	37	122	20.3
Ginobili, SAN	9	56	48	179	19.9
Butler, DAL	6	43	25	118	19.7
Stoudemire, PHX	9	64	48	176	19.6
Johnson, ATL	9	69	29	175	19.4
Gasol, LAL	8	57	41	155	19.4
Duncan, SAN	9	71	30	173	19.2
Aldridge, POR	6	40	33	114	19.0

Rebounds	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Noah, CHI	5	20	45	65	13.0
Boozer, UTA	8	26	78	104	13.0
Gasol, LAL	8	28	72	100	12.5
Howard, ORL	6	19	47	66	11.0
Duncan, SAN	9	27	64	91	10.1
Camby, POR	6	16	44	60	10.0
Millspap, UTA	8	28	51	79	9.9
Bynum, LAL	8	23	55	78	9.8
Horford, ATL	9	24	61	85	9.4
Wallace, CHA	4	2	34	36	9.0

Assists	G	AST	AVG
Rondo, BOS	8	90	11.3
Williams, UTA	8	85	10.6
Nash, PHX	9	81	9.0
James, CLE	8	59	7.4
Rose, CHI	5	36	7.2
Kidd, DAL	6	42	7.0
Wade, MIA	5	34	6.8
Billups, DEN	6	38	6.3
Westbrook, OKC	6	36	6.0
Miller, POR	6	35	5.8

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE	East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	22	8	.733	—	
New York	21	8	.724	1/2	
Toronto	18	14	.563	5	
Boston	15	16	.484	7 1/2	
Baltimore	9	22	.290	13 1/2	

Central Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	20	11	.645	—
Detroit	17	13	.567	2 1/2
Chicago	13	18	.419	7
Cleveland	10	18	.357	8 1/2
Kansas City	11	20	.355	9

West Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Texas	17	14	.548	—
Oakland	16	15	.516	1
Los Angeles	14	18	.438	3 1/2
Seattle	11	19	.367	5 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	18	12	.600	—
New York	17	13	.567	1
Washington	16	14	.533	2
Florida	14	16	.467	4
Atlanta	13	17	.433	5

Central Division	W	L	Pct	GB
St. Louis	19	12	.613	—
Cincinnati	15	15	.500	3 1/2
Milwaukee	14	16	.467	4 1/2
Pittsburgh	14	16	.467	4 1/2
Chicago	14	17	.452	5
Houston	9	21	.300	9 1/2

West Division	W	L	Pct	GB
San Diego	19	11	.633	—
San Francisco	17	12	.586	1 1/2
Colorado	15	15	.500	4
Arizona	14	17	.452	5 1/2
Los Angeles	13	17	.433	6

Yesterday's Games

Washington 5, Florida 4

PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Florida
(AP)—Results Saturday from the Players Championship, a \$9.5 million US PGA Tour event at the 7,215-yard, par-72 TPC Sawgrass, Players Stadium Course:

THIRD ROUND	Score
Lee Westwood	67-65-70—202
Robert Allenby	66-70-67—203
Ben Crane	67-69-68—204
Lucas Glover	70-65-69—204
Francesco Molinari	68-65-71—204
Chris Stroud	70-69-66—205
Tim Clark	68-71-66—205
Charley Hoffman	68-68-69—205
Heath Slocum	67-66-72—205
Bo Van Pelt	68-69-69—206
Phil Mickelson	70-71-66—207
Zach Johnson	70-70-67—207
Bill Haas	68-69-70—207
John Rollins	68-69-70—207
Fred Funk	72-70-66—208
Jimmy Walker	71-69-68—208
Nick Watney	69-71-68—208
Andres Romero	69-70-69—208
Fredrik Jacobson	69-70-69—208
Paul Goydos	69-68-71—208
Ryan Moore	67-70-71—208
Davis Love III	69-68-71—208
Luke Donald	67-69-72—208
Chris Couch	74-68-67—209
Martin Kaymer	70-71-68—209
Boo Weekley	69-72-68—209
Matt Kuchar	68-71-70—209
Greg Chalmers	70-69-70—209
Sean O'Hair	70-69-70—209
Hunter Mahan	70-69-70—209
Adam Scott	70-68-71—209
Kenny Perry	67-71-71—209
Graeme McDowell	72-65-72—209
K.J. Choi	69-68-72—209
Ryuji Imada	67-66-76—209
Scott Verplank	71-70-69—210
Justin Leonard	72-68-70—210
Oliver Wilson	70-70-70—210
Troy Matteson	68-71-71—210
Sergio Garcia	69-70-71—210
J.B. Holmes	66-72-72—210
Spencer Levin	71-67-72—210
Bob Estes	70-69-72—211
Y.E. Yang	70-68-73—211
Dustin Johnson	71-71-70—212
Alex Prugh	69-73-70—212
Jeff Overton	70-72-70—212
Rory Sabbatini	72-69-71—212
Jason Bohn	67-74-71—212
Tiger Woods	70-71-71—212
Steve Marino	73-67-72—212
Jerry Kelly	73-66-73—212
John Merrick	70-72-71—213
Steve Flesch	71-71-71—213
George McNeill	75-67-72—214
James Nitties	70-72-72—214
Woody Austin	69-72-73—214
Ben Curtis	71-68-75—214
Roland Thatcher	71-68-75—214
Jim Furyk	69-73-73—215
Brett Quigley	72-69-75—216
J.J. Henry	68-71-77—216
Alvaro Quiros	72-70-75—217
Kris Blanks	71-71-75—217
Troy Merritt	71-70-76—217
Robert Karlsson	71-69-77—217
Alex Cejka	69-72-76—217
Kevin Stadler	69-70-78—217
James Driscoll	71-71-77—219
Stephen Ames	70-71-79—220

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Week in Sports

Champions crowned

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER

The week belonged to the champions, who reigned supreme in various leagues and tournaments on the island.

The list include the Grace Christian Academy's Eagles, Saipan International School's Lady Geckos, Micronesia Brokers, Inc., Chris Hilario, Annette Ta, Dick Guintu, and Choi Hannah.

The Eagles and the Lady Geckos won the varsity championship in Coalition of Private School Sports Association Basketball League. In the boys division, GCA prevailed over Mt. Carmel School, which had its Lady Knights bowing to the Lady Geckos in the girls finals.

MBI took the pennant championship in the Shirley's caging after pulling off a come-from-behind win over Aqua Resort Club. MBI went on to finish the

regular season with an 11-3 record, as it lost its last game against Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan. MBI, World Resort/Advance, Fiesta, and Mobil claimed the Top 4 spots and drew a bye in the first round of the playoffs.

Hilario and Ta were the first champions crowned in the 2010 IT&E Singles/Mixed Doubles Badminton Competition. They took the mixed C doubles championship after outclassing Rob Harrell and Tosiko Obata in a three-set finale, 21-10, 16-21, 21-10.

Guintu and Hannah then joined Ta and Hilario in the champions' circle after thumping Macoi Aguda and Marlene Peraja in the mixed AB doubles finals in three sets, too, 12-21, 21-12, 21-17.

Cuki Alvarez did not nail any championship trophy, but still came out a winner last week after beating Guam's Wyenue "One Time" Bamba in the PXC 19 at the University of Guam Fieldhouse. Nicknamed the "Flying Cockroach," Alvarez stopped Bamba

in the 4:22 mark of the first round on a north-south Kimura armlock.

In baseball, the Miller Lite Brewers and Fielders arranged their title duel in the 2010 Saipan Major League Baseball after prevailing against separate foes in the semifinals.

The Fielders swept the Falcons in their best-of-three semis series, while the Brewers stunned erstwhile champions Rangers in the other semis pairing, 2-1.

Other baseball and softball leagues

on the island continued with the Saipan Little League Baseball entering the stretch of the regular season and the Chamolinian softball league resuming action last Friday after games on Monday and Wednesday were rained-out.

In basketball, Ebisuya and IT&E remained unbeaten in the Masters caging, while the Navy Hill caging had already completed its playoff cast.

Still in basketball, the women's league opened last week with Team 1 notching back-to-back wins.

In bowling, Carol McKenzie, Raymond Zapanta, and MJ Aldan, won the SBA May roll-offs.

In football, K. Seniors grabbed the lead in the NMIFA men's league, while the spring youth league for U6 and U8 age groups concluded last week with a football festival.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Team 1 player (in red uniform) tries to elude the defense of two Team 6 players during the opening of the women's league last week at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



WALTER SUTHERLAND

The Grace Christian Academy Eagles won the Coalition of Private School Sports Association Basketball League boys' championship game, 73-69, against the Mount Carmel Knights.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Ebisuya's Jun Tabora pulls up for a jumper against a QQ Rent a Car defender during their game in the MBL last week at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

MBI's George Barbo drives against a phalanx of Fiesta defenders during their game in the Shirley's caging last week at the JP Center Basketball Court.



WALTER SUTHERLAND

The Fielders celebrate after sweeping the Falcons in their best-of-three semis series and advancing to the SML finals against the Miller Lite Brewers.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Chris Hilario, left, and Annette Ta celebrate after beating Rob Harrell and Tosiko Obata in a three-set finale, 21-10, 16-21, 21-10, in the mixed C doubles division of the 2010 IT&E Singles/Mixed Doubles Badminton Competition.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Matansa and Tan Holdings U6 players in action during the spring football festival at the San Antonio Elementary School Field.

Bryant scores
35 as Lakers
beat Jazz

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Saipan Tribune Sports



28 MONDAY, MAY 10, 2010

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Brewers take Game 1 over Fielders, 12-7

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER



The veteran Brewers' offense made a statement in the third inning and got out in front early before wearing

down the Fielders in the later innings to take Game 1, 12-7, of their best-of-five championship series in the 2010 Saipan Major League on Friday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

In the top of the first, John Reyes led off with a double for the visiting Fielders and cleanup batter Ionis Rasa drove him

home before getting stranded at third.

Then Brewers answered back with two runs, as Toi Celis and Ron Benavente led off the bottom half with walks.

Celis moved to second off a passed ball, stole third, and then scored off an error and then Manny Sablan singled

See BREWERS on Page 26

Brewers pitcher Ben Duenas went all nine innings and allowed seven runs, three unearned, off 15 hits with three strikeouts and a walk as the Brew crew won Game 1 of the 2010 SML championship series against the Fielders Friday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE



Three in a row for Matansa



ROSELLYN B. MONROYO

A Matansa Football Club players kicks the ball, while MP United defenders chase her during the girls U14 finals in the NMIFA youth spring football festival on Saturday at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

By ROSELLYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Matansa Football Club's girls U14 team notched its third straight championship after beating MP United, 2-0, in the finals of the 2010 NMIFA Youth Football Spring League on Saturday at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

Andrea Camacho made twin goals in the finals to add another championship trophy to Matansa's growing collection. Matansa ruled both the fall and

spring editions of the 2009 season of the youth league, which back then was for U13 age group.

This year, even the change in the age group did not prevent Matansa from extending its dominance in the league, as the club's U14 squad recorded a no ordinary feat this season.

Besides going undefeated in eight games in the regular season, the John Ravell-coached squad gave up no goals to its foes both in the preliminary round and in the playoffs.



"This feat [giving up no goals] can be attributed not only to our goals, but to every player on and off the field. Players on the field always hustle for the ball and play no let up, while players off the field are there to cheer for their teammates and

applaud every good plays. This feat was made possible through the combined efforts of the players, and also their supportive parents, and the officials and coaches of the Matansa

See THREE on Page 26

Ngirchongor, Zapanta are April's best

By ROSELLYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Abowler and a sprinter were the winners of the NMASA Female and Male Athletes of the Month (for April) awards.

Saipan Bowling Association's Gigi Zapanta took the monthly plum in the female division after ruling the April

roll-offs at the Saipan Bowling Center. Zapanta defeated 10 other female keglers in the Budweiser Queen of the Lanestournament after knocking down 669 pins in four games. She had a strong start in the monthly roll-offs, carding 186



Ngirchongor



Zapanta

pinfalls in Game 1, had her second best showing in Game 3 with 182 pinfalls, and recorded 148 and 153 in Games 2 and 4, for an average of 167.25 pinfalls.

Zapanta had a 14-pinfall lead over
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Moonlight shines; Brabu Bulls, Team 10 win

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REPORTER

Moonlight broke into the win column in the 2010 MGD/MBFNMI 35A Masters Basketball League, following a 64-57 victory over Team 4 on Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Moonlight dropped its first two games in the 16-team league before ending its losing skid after drawing double figures from three players. George Masga top-scored for Moonlight with 25, while Arman Anasan and Tom Diaz chipped in 13 and 12, respectively.

Diaz tallied all his 12 markers in the first period, hitting four triples, but Moonlight still fell behind, 16-17.

Masga picked up where Diaz left off in the second canto, canning two triples and firing 13 points in that quarter alone to put Moonlight in the driver's seat at the break, 37-29.

Anasan made it a double-digit lead at the end of the third period, 50-40, as he scored Moonlight's last five points in that quarter. Anasan was still on target in the fourth, giving Moonlight its first six markers, while Masga finished the job with his own string of

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Brabu Bulls' Jun Miday, right, challenges the defense of Team 12's Michael White during their game in the MBL on Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. ROSELLYN B. MONROYO